PHOTO GUIDE to Accessibility Modifications In The Home
How to Use this Guide

This photo guide is designed to help illustrate practical home modifications for accessibility, safety in the home and prevention of falls. The photos provided are of well designed solutions for a variety of users and needs.

We recommend looking through the entire book to better understand the various options before beginning any project. You may discover ideas that would be more economical or effective for your individual needs.

ASSIST Inc

ASSIST Inc is an independent nonprofit Community Design Center founded in 1969 by the Graduate School of Architecture at the University of Utah and the Utah Society of the American Institute of Architects.

For over 45 years ASSIST has been providing architectural design, community planning and development assistance to nonprofit and community groups; housing repair for low income households; and accessibility design assistance to people with disabilities.

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3 Standard Accessibility Dimensions

Standard Ramp - 1:12 (Maximum 30 foot ramp run)
*A foot of ramp for each inch of rise*

Ramp Slope

1:12
1
12
8.3%
4.8°

Handrails & landings are optional but are not required on a 1:20 slope

Sloped Pathway

1:20
1
20
5%
2.8°

Ramp Cross Section

Ramp Landing

Vertical Change

1/4” Maximum

Beveled Threshold

1/2” Maximum

Door, Roll-in Shower and Other Thresholds

Low Rise Steps

15” - 30” Deep Treads
4” - 6” Tall Risers

Vertical Platform Lift

Level Concrete Slab

Safety Gate
Typical Grab Bar Placement

Clear Floor Space

Wheelchair Turning Space

Vertical

Horizontal

Diagonal

NOTE: Grab bar orientation, length and height always to user preference; 1-1/4” diameter bars often preferred

Typical Grab Bar Placement

Roll-Under Sink and Counter

Doorway Opening & Maneuvering Space
Home Entry

Railings
Home Entry
Wedge Ramps
Home Entry

Ramps
Home Entry

Ramps
13 Home Entry
Ramps
Home Entry
Low Rise Steps
Home Entry

Vertical Platform Lifts (VPL)
Home Entry
Interior Access
Doors & Swing Clear Hinges

36 inch wide interior door

28 inch wide bathroom door
Removal of trimmer studs

Interior Access

Door Frame Modifications

Metal hangers for header support

Removal of trimmer studs
Interior Access

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Interior Handrails & Automatic Door Openers
Interior Access
Interior Access

Interior Elevators
Interior Access
Bathroom
Bathroom
Grab Bars
Bathroom
High Rise Toilets/ Risers & Portable Showers

18 +/- inches from floor
Bathroom

Curb Shower
Bathroom

Fixed & Hand-held Shower Wand
Bathroom
Shower Chairs & Benches
### Aging In Place Features

Home Owners Checklist

This checklist can help identify health and safety concerns in your home. If you answer “NO” to various items on the list, consider improvements to help you age in place, by staying safely in your home and preventing falls.

<table>
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<th>Section</th>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
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<td><strong>ENTRYWAYS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>No-step entry into your home</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Railings on exterior steps, both sides preferred</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Clear paths of travel into your home with no tripping hazards</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Doorbell and mailboxes easy to access</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MAIN FLOOR LIVING</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Accessible full bath</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Main floor bedroom or adaptable space</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Two clear safety exits on the main floor</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>INTERIOR DOORS, HALLWAYS AND THRESHOLDS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Low thresholds and doorway transitions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lighted hallways</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Doorways wide enough for a wheelchair and / or walker</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Interior doors with lever handles and swing clear hinges</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(swing clear hinges increase doorway passage space by 2 inches)</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>STAIRWAYS</strong></td>
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<td>Stairways with secure hand rails on both sides</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stairways well lit</td>
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<td>Convenient layout for stair glide</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-slip surface or tub mat in bathtub or shower</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grab bars in bathtub or shower area</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Grab bars alongside toilet</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>High rise toilet (increases standard height by 2 inches)</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Slip-resistant floor, free of tripping hazards</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safe access into and out of bathtub or shower</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fixed and hand held shower wand</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bathroom has operable window or exhaust fan</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bathroom has a night-light</td>
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KITCHEN
Adequate counter space
Kitchen appliances safe and easy to use
Easy access to storage space for frequently used items
Cook top and oven controls safe and easy to use

FLOORING
Slip-resistant flooring throughout the home
Carpet is free of tripping hazards, tears, wrinkles and or de-threading
Rugs have slip-resistant backing or double faced adhesive

ELECTRICAL AND LIGHTING
Convenient location of thermostats and other controls
Electrical outlets easy to find and use
Light switches at the entrance to every room, hallway and stairway

HEATING, COOLING AND VENTILATION
Supply and return air vents free of obstruction
Energy efficient HVAC unit
Smoke alarms and carbon monoxide (CO) detector in the home
Operable windows for cross ventilation and fresh air
Hot water heater set no higher than 120 degrees fahrenheit
Home free of stale or musty odors
Furnace filters are convenient and easy to change
(furnace filters should be replaced at least every other month)

LAUNDRY
Washer and dryer at an accessible location in the home
Washer and dryer at an accessible height; settings are easy to read
Convenient counter space

CLUTTER
Rooms, hallways and exits free of clutter and unnecessary objects
Floors and stairs free of tripping hazards
ASSIST Inc - A Community Design Center  
www.assistutah.org  
(801) 355 - 7085  
Provides emergency home repair & design assistance for safety and accessibility

Center for Inclusive Design & Environmental Access (IDEA)  
idea.ap.buffalo.edu  
(716) 829 - 5902  
The Center is active in basic & applied research, architectural design, community service and education. Programs focus on home modifications, functional assessment and universal design

Concrete Change  
www.concretechange.org  
Advocates visitability in all homes--no-step entry, usable bathroom & minimum 34” doors

Utah Division of Services for People with Disabilities (DSPD)  
dspd.utah.gov  
(801) 538 - 4200  
DSPD provides a wide variety of services intended to help people with disabilities participate more fully in their communities and lead more self-determined lives

Salt Lake Valley Habitat for Humanity  
www.habitatsaltlake.com  
(801) 263 - 0136  
Provides affordable housing, home repairs & home improvement thrift store (ReStore)

Utah Independent Living Center (UILC)  
www.uilc.org  
(800) 355 - 2195  
Provides services such as assistive technology & education for independent living

Salt Lake County - Green and Healthy Homes Initiative  
saltlakecountyleadsafe.org  
(801) 468 - 4892  
Provides free home assessment for health related issues (such as asthma); Provides lead paint remediation to low-income households with children under 6

Utah Center for Assistive Technology (UCAT)  
ucat.usor.utah.gov  
(801) 887 - 9533  
Provides assistive technologies for people with disabilities