



Home Improvements

Easy-Access Housing For Adaptable Living

(NAPSA)—Encouraging to the more than 54 million Americans with disabilities is a simple checklist that has been created as a guide for what to look for in an accessible home. The guide, developed by Easter Seals and Century 21 Real Estate LLC, also helps point to what features are necessary for homes to be adapted to accommodate persons with various types of disabilities.

First, a home is considered adaptable if it has most of the following key structural features:

- A location on a relatively flat or level site with paved walkways and sidewalk areas to a level entry.
- A ground-level entrance or a one- or two-step entrance clear of any major obstructions.
- No steps or abrupt level changes on the main floor.
- Wider-than-standard doorways (32-inch or more clear width).
- Wide hallways; at least 42 inches, preferably 48 to 60 inches.
- At least one large bathroom with a 32-inch door opening and a clear five-foot by five-foot space.
- A kitchen large enough for easy wheelchair mobility.

Fortunately, there are many adaptations that are possible to increase the accessibility and comfort of a home occupied by a person with a disability or with functional limitations due to aging.



An adaptable house has certain features that make it possible to modify it to accommodate people with a wide range of physical disabilities.

For example, accessibility to wall cabinets that are too high can be increased by adding some new cabinets or adding a free standing storage cabinet. If doorknobs are problematic, round knob fixtures can be replaced with lever or handle-style hardware. In the bathroom, if standard-height toilets are a problem, remember that most hospital and medical supply companies carry products that can be added on to standard toilets to raise the seat height.

For more pointers on easy-access housing for easier living, visit www.EasterSeals.com/easyaccess.