

Aging-In-Place Design Checklist

Exterior

- Low-maintenance exterior
- Low-maintenance shrubs and plants
- Deck, patio, or balcony surfaces are no more than a half inch below interior floor level if made of wood

Entry

- Accessible path of travel to the home
- At least one no-step entry with a cover
- Sensor light at exterior no-step entry focusing on the front-door lock
- 36-inch wide doorway
- Non-slip flooring in foyer
- Entry door sidelight or high/low peep hole viewer; sidelight should provide both privacy and safety
- Doorbell in accessible location
- Surface to place packages on when opening door

Flooring

- Flush preferable
- Exterior maximum of a half inch beveled
- Interior maximum of a quarter inch
- Smooth, non-glare, slip-resistant surfaces, interior and exterior
- If carpeted, use low (less than a half inch high pile) density, with firm pad
- Color/texture contrast to indicate change in surface levels

Windows

- Plenty of windows for natural light
- Lowered windows or taller windows with lower sill height
- Low maintenance exterior and interior finishes
- Easy to operate hardware

Faucets

- Lever handles or pedal-controlled
- Thermostatic or anti-scald controls
- Pressure balanced faucets

Kitchen and Laundry

- Wall support and provision for adjustable and/or varied height counters and removable base cabinets
- Upper wall cabinetry three inches lower than conventional height
- Accented stripes on edge of countertops to provide visual orientation to the workspace
- Counter space for dish landing adjacent to or opposite all appliances
- Base cabinet with roll out trays and lazy susans
- Pull-down shelving
- Open shelving for easy access to frequently used items
- Appliances with easy to read controls
- Front loading washing machine and dryer raised 12-15 inches above floor
- Microwave oven at counter height or in wall
- Side-by-side refrigerator/freezer
- Side-swing or wall oven
- Raised dishwasher with push-button controls
- Multi-level work areas to accommodate cooks of different heights
- Loop handles for easy grip and pull
- Pull-out spray faucet; levered handles

Bathroom

- At least one wheelchair maneuverable bath on main level with 60-inch turning radius or acceptable T-turn space
- Bracing in walls around tub, shower, shower seat, and toilet for installation of grab bars to support 250-300 pounds
- Curb-less showers with a minimum of 36-inches wide walls
- Fold down seat in the shower
- Adjustable/handheld showerheads, 6-foot hose
- Tub/shower controls offset from center
- Toilet two and half inches higher than standard toilet (17-19 inches) or height-adjustable
- Slip-resistant flooring in bathroom and shower