



Senior Housing Options

Aging in Place

<http://www.archhousing.org/current-residents/senior-housing.html>

Home Evaluation Safety and Accessibility Checklist

Use this checklist to identify hazards and accessibility issues of the homeowner and family members. Note those questions you may have, comments, repairs and improvements needed. You will then be better prepared to discuss your ability to stay in your home under current conditions, with added services, and/or with modifications to your home. While you may not need many of the features identified at this time, you will now be aware and can take into account the potential costs of adding features in the future.

1. Exterior - Entrances and Exits	Repairs and Improvements
Are walkways and driveway on a level surface?	
Are curbs flush?	
Are surfaces of walkways and driveway paved or gravel surface? Is the surface slippery at times?	
Are walkways wide enough? (36 inches for wheelchair)	
Could a ramp be installed, if needed? (Max. ramp slope 1:12 and landing areas)	
Are there sturdy handrails on two sides of walkway? One side of walkway?	
Are the porch, walkway and drive lighted?	
Are door thresholds flush or beveled?	
Do doors have lever handles?	
Are all door and window locks easy to work?	
Is the mailbox accessible to owner?	
Does door have a peephole or is there a camera to view front porch?	
Is there an accessible package shelf on front porch?	
2. Interior Doors, Stairs, Halls	Repairs and Improvements
Are door and room thresholds flush or beveled?	
Are door handles - lever handles?	
Are doorways wide enough for a walker or wheelchair? (Use swing-clear hinges to widen doorways for minimum 32 inches)	

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Is hall width adequate for walker or wheelchair?	
Are floors level? Is carpeting stretched and secure? Are rugs or mats taped down to prevent tripping on?	
Are stair flights long, straight or curved?	
Do steps have a non-slip surface?	
Is there color contrast or texture change at top and bottom of stairs?	
Are there sturdy handrails on two sides of stairs? One side of stairs?	
Do stairs and hallways have good lighting?	
Are light switches at top and bottom of stairs and ends of hallway? (Motion sensor light switches will light halls when in use.)	
Is there clutter in halls or stairs?	
3. Bathroom	Repairs and Improvements
Do faucets and shower control have lever handles?	
Are water pressure balance valves installed?	
Are drain plugs manageable and working?	
Are hot water pipes covered?	
Is mirror height suitable when sitting or standing?	
Is storage above or below basin reachable?	
Are there sharp corners to countertops?	
Is the sink accessible by wheelchair?	
Is lighting non-glare and switches accessible?	
Are there grab bars to assist to step out of the tub or shower? (Add non-slip strips in bath/shower)	
Is there room for a bench or chair in the tub or shower? (Add a no-threshold shower, if abilities are severely limited.)	
Does the shower head have an adjustable-height?	
Is the toilet height accommodating? (Add portable seat to elevate toilet height.)	
Is there a grab bars to assist one to stand?	

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Is the paper and flush handle easy to reach? (Add a flush sensor)	
Is there room for a caregiver to assist?	
4. Kitchen	Repairs and Improvements
Is overall light levels and task lighting at table, sink and stove optimal?	
Are switches and outlets at front of counters for easy access?	
Do sink and counter heights meet needs?	
Do wall and floor storage shelf heights meet needs? (adjustable shelving is available for access to upper cabinets and pull-out units can improve access to under counter storage)	
Are cupboard door handles “D-type”? When viewed from the side this style of pull looks like the letter “D”.	
Are under sink hot water pipes covered?	
Is under counter knee space needed? (Remove doors or shelves to create sitting/knee clearance under work counter)	
Is there a nearby surface for hot foods when removed from oven?	
Are stove controls located near the front, so not to require reaching over a hot pot?	
Is there a lever faucet at the sink that is pressure-balanced and temperature-regulated?	
Is there color contrast of switches, cabinet, counters surface edges and tactile features for those with low vision?	
5. Living, Dining, Bedroom	Repairs and Improvements
Do chair, sofa, bed heights allow sitting or standing? (1. Risers under furniture legs of chairs and beds may improve accessibility. 2. Vertical pole next to sofa may assist in standing.)	
Do rugs have non-slip pad or rug tape?	

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Chair available with arm rests to assist in standing? (A bed side rail may also assist in standing.)	
Do room pathways provide clear and easy access? Are all cords away from traveled pathways?	
Are floors level and surfaced with low pile carpet, tile or wood?	
Are controls for lights, TV, phone next to the bed and chair?	
Are there sufficient outlets at needed heights and locations?	
Are windows, drapes and slide patio doors easy to open?	
Are closet rods, shelving adjustable for better access to storage? (Bi-fold or pocket doors may add to accessibility)	
Are closets lighted?	
6. Windows	Repairs and Improvements
Is the opening mechanism 42 inches above the floor?	
Lock accessible, easy to operate?	
7. Laundry	Repairs and Improvements
Is there accessible space to hand-wash, sort, fold and hang clothes to dry?	
Is the washer/dryer easily accessible?	
8. Telephone and Door	Repairs and Improvements
Is there a phone jack location near bed, sofa and chair?	
Is the doorbell, and phone audible by occupant? (1. Add light or sound amplifier to alert occupant of ringing. 2. Add peephole at convenient height. 3. Add camera to view porch.)	
9. Safety and Other Controls	Repairs and Improvements
Is a neck/wrist device to obtain emergency help worn?	
Does the home have a security system?	
Are there smoke/CO detectors and fire extinguishers?	
Is the thermometer easy to read and program?	
Are there sufficient outlets at needed heights and wall locations?	