

# CHECKLIST - CLEARING THE PATH

## Accessible Pathways & Entrances:

- \_\_\_ Provide a clear obstacle free pathway to front doorway from the vehicle parking area.
- \_\_\_ At least one no-step entrance to the home accomplished by careful grading and landscaping.
- \_\_\_ Grading & slopes should not exceed a pitch of 1 foot in rise for every 20 feet in length.
- \_\_\_ Install handrails where needed.
- \_\_\_ Covered overhang at entranceway for inclement weather protection.
- \_\_\_ Optional package shelf at front entranceway for parcels, groceries, etc.
- \_\_\_ High-visibility address numbers, illuminated if possible.
- \_\_\_ Front door should be 36" wide with a maximum 1/2" high threshold with beveled edges.
- \_\_\_ Lever-set front door handles with dual-function release deadbolt preferred.
- \_\_\_ At least a 5'x5' level clear turning circle on both sides of entry doorway.
- \_\_\_ Full-length sidelights(s) at entry, or window in door to see visitors, or double peepholes one at normal height and the second at 42" height.
- \_\_\_ Audible front doorbell to be heard throughout house.

## Interior Features Throughout:

- \_\_\_ Consider placing the master bedroom & bathroom on the ground floor of multi-story home.
- \_\_\_ All doors to rooms and closets should be 36" wide.
- \_\_\_ All thresholds should not exceed 1/2" height and have beveled top edges.
- \_\_\_ Lever style door handles throughout.
- \_\_\_ Five-pound maximum force to open doors, using lightweight doors.
- \_\_\_ Provide 18" minimum space beside in-swing latch side of doorway.
- \_\_\_ All hallways to be at least 42" minimum clear width.
- \_\_\_ Use non-slip, low maintenance flooring surfaces and low pile or loop carpeting over dense but thin commercial type padding throughout the home.
- \_\_\_ Avoid small throw rugs. Large area rugs should have anti-slip backing.
- \_\_\_ Windowsills in living, dining, and bedroom areas should be 30" height maximum AFF.
- \_\_\_ Install skylights wherever possible.
- \_\_\_ Thermostats should have large print easily readable numbers and controls, and mounted at no more than 53" height from finished floor to center of thermostat (48" ht for wheelchair user).
- \_\_\_ Provide adjustable height poles and shelves in all closets.
- \_\_\_ Avoid floor elevation changes whenever possible.
- \_\_\_ Select furniture that has rounded corners, is properly scaled for each room, and which will allow easy movement. Select furniture of the correct firmness, easy to get in and out of, and easy to move.
- \_\_\_ Employ the use of color contrast between door jambs & adjacent walls.
- \_\_\_ Install night lights in bathrooms and pathway leading from bedrooms to bathrooms.
- \_\_\_ Select high energy-efficient appliances and products throughout the home.
- \_\_\_ Choose all products and finishes that minimize maintenance and upkeep.

## Lighting and Electrical Throughout the Home:

- \_\_\_ Provide good lighting along exterior path to entrance and especially at entrance.
- \_\_\_ All light switches should be large rocker-type, preferably illuminated type. Locate within easy reach at the entrance of each room, mounted at 36" to 42" height from finished floor to center of switch.
- \_\_\_ All electrical wall outlets to be grounded type and mounted at 18" height from finished floor to center of outlet.

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- \_\_\_ Provide telephone jacks in all rooms mounted at 18" height from finished floor to center of outlet. Consider wall mounted phone in bathroom, laundry, and kitchen.
- \_\_\_ Use energy-efficient fluorescent, shadow-free lighting throughout the house for general illumination, especially in kitchen, bathrooms, closets, laundry room, etc.
- \_\_\_ Use fixtures with electronic ballasts and fluorescent lamps in the 3500k to 4100k color range.
- \_\_\_ All light fixtures and window treatments should provide glare-free lighting.

## **Kitchen:**

- \_\_\_ Provide a 5' diameter clear open space in kitchen.
- \_\_\_ An L-shaped counter with sink, cook-top and oven works best. Allows sliding heavy hot items safely without having to lift and carry. Cook-top counter 30" to 34" height from finished floor when possible.
- \_\_\_ Vary counter heights for easy use by both tall and short people.
- \_\_\_ Use easy to maintain countertop material such as laminate, or other durable synthetic material. Try to avoid dark colors, and tile which is difficult to maintain.
- \_\_\_ Radius or bevel all counter corners for safety and consider contrasting border edge color.
- \_\_\_ Provide at least 18" to 24" of clear countertop surface at both sides of cook-top and sink, and at least 24" of clear countertop surface at one side of refrigerator and built-in oven.
- \_\_\_ Cabinets should have plywood box construction. Lower cabinets should have with full extension drawers instead of fixed shelves.
- \_\_\_ Cabinet doors and drawers should be easy to open and easy-to-grasp handles.
- \_\_\_ Use 170 to 180 degree hinges on cook-top and sink cabinet doors.
- \_\_\_ Under-sink & cook-top cabinets should have an open or removable section 30" wide x 27" high x 19" deep open space underneath.
- \_\_\_ Heat insulate waste and hot water lines.
- \_\_\_ Mount upper cabinets at 13"15" height from counter top instead of standard 18".
- \_\_\_ Consider the option of glass door upper cabinets for good content visibility.
- \_\_\_ Dishwasher unit should be elevated at least 6" to 9" height from finished floor.
- \_\_\_ Wall-mounted oven should be mounted at height so that center of control panel is about 48" from finished floor, and center shelf is about level with adjacent countertop. Select self-cleaning and convection features, and oven should have easy to read and operate controls.
- \_\_\_ Provide adjacent heat resistant surface counter-top for easy transfer of hot dishes.
- \_\_\_ Consider a free-standing microwave unit set on counter-top for ease of use.
- \_\_\_ Cook-top should have easy-to-reach and hold front or side located controls.
- \_\_\_ Floors and walls under sink and cook-top should be finished.
- \_\_\_ Sink should be 18 gauge stainless steel with 6" deep basins and drains offset to rear..
- \_\_\_ Faucet should be single-lever, high arc type with pull-out spray head.
- \_\_\_ Install anti-scald valve set at 120 degrees maximum.
- \_\_\_ Install exhaust fan with correct airflow capacity and quiet operation features.
- \_\_\_ Mount fan control switch at front of counter for easy reach when seated.
- \_\_\_ Provide electronic ballast fluorescent task lighting under upper cabinets.
- \_\_\_ Provide fluorescent recessed or surface ambient lighting fixtures with electronic ballasts and lamps in 3500k to 4100k range in kitchen ceiling for good even general illumination.
- \_\_\_ Select easy-to-maintain floor surface material in light color preferred.
- \_\_\_ Mount a Halon type fire extinguisher in an easy-to-reach location.

## **Bathrooms:**

- \_\_\_ Bathroom entry door should be 36" wide whenever possible, but not less than 34". In renovation work it can "out-swing" when appropriate.
- \_\_\_ Provide a 5' diameter clear space in bathrooms, or a T-shaped 3'x 5' with 2'x5'-T.
- \_\_\_ Resilient floor surface material is recommended such as contract grade, no-wax, slip-resistant sheet vinyl in light color, with self-cove base.
- \_\_\_ Provide in-wall plywood or blocking reinforcement to allow later installation of grab-bars with 250lb load support capacity around the tub, toilet, and shower.
- \_\_\_ Install towel bars securely in case of need to grasp during a fall.
- \_\_\_ Bathroom sink cabinets with 30" wide x 27"high x 19" deep open space underneath to allow a seated person to easily use.
- \_\_\_ Insulate hot water line and waste line under sink.
- \_\_\_ Single lever faucet with anti-scald valve in hot side set at 120 degrees maximum.
- \_\_\_ Mount mirror and medicine cabinet bottoms directly above sink rear backsplash to allow easy use when seated.
- \_\_\_ Bathtub to have non-slip bottom, and a 24" minimum full length seated drying space alongside.
- \_\_\_ Mount bathtub lever type controls whenever possible, offset near to the entry side of the tub.
- \_\_\_ Install an anti-scald valve set at 120 degrees maximum for hot water line in tub.
- \_\_\_ Provide a curb-less shower unit with minimum 42" wide by 60" long non-slip base, and preferably 48" x 60".
- \_\_\_ Offset single lever type shower control mounted near entry to shower.
- \_\_\_ Avoid using tile in bathrooms especially in shower unit for safety and ease of cleaning.
- \_\_\_ Shower walls should have "in-wall" plywood or blocking reinforcement to allow later installation of grab-bars (250lb load support capacity).
- \_\_\_ Shower spray unit should have minimum 6' long hose detachable hand held shower head with water shut-off button or lever on head.
- \_\_\_ Toilet to be 16" to 16-1/2" height elongated "comfort height" type unit. Bathroom to have a 60" diameter clear space or minimum 3'x5' and 18" minimum from side wall and adjacent vanity.
- \_\_\_ Exhaust fan with correct airflow capacity, and maximum quiet 1.5 sones noise level operation, controlled by a separate switch.
- \_\_\_ Lighting: 2-lamp, 48" long surface mounted 6"x6" wrap around acrylic diffuser light fixture, with electronic ballast and T8, 3500k lamps. Mount directly above vanity mirror. Light fixture above shower and/or tub light fixtures to be moisture resistant type with compact fluorescent lamp.

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## Bedrooms:

- Closets should have height adjustable poles and shelving
- Provide good lighting, preferably fluorescent, in all closets. Mount switch directly adjacent to and outside the closet doorway for ease of use.
  
- Closet doorway should be at least 36" clear opening width minimum.
  
- Provide high quality fluorescent ceiling mounted general illumination light fixtures in each bedroom in addition to table-top and wall mounted task lighting.
- Provide 36 "clear space on two sides of the bed and 60" clear on the third side.
  
- Provide a telephone jack near the bed.

## Laundry & Utility Room:

- Select a washer and dryer that are front-load type and with front mounted, easy-to-use controls. Platform mount the washer and dryer 9" from the finished floor.

ABOVE CHECKLIST FROM *Shared Solutions America* - *Livable Homes*

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