



# Universal *Design*

Housing Solutions for All Ages and Abilities



Our Homes.....

**should be designed to support  
comfort, efficiency, safety,  
independence, change.**

**We should not have to.....**

**...struggle to get  
something big  
through a narrow  
door**



**...find it  
difficult or  
unsafe to use  
common  
places**



**...strain to see  
due to poor  
lighting**



**...find it  
awkward to  
complete a  
task**



**...have trouble  
reaching  
needed items**



**...worry or be  
in danger of  
falling**



**...struggle to  
open a door**



...be forced to move because a house is not adaptable to family change



**There is a better way to design  
our homes.....**

**Universal Design**

# What is Universal Design?

It is simply...

the design of environments and products that are attractive and easy for everyone to use.



# **A PHILOSOPHY.....**

**Universal Design is a concept or philosophy based on what works for an individual, their family, and friends.**

# What Universal Design is NOT!

**NOT restricted by specific code requirements such as ADA**

**NOT JUST for persons with disabilities**

➤ **However, Universal Design  
does.....**

Be useful to people of all ages and abilities...



# Improve comfort and ease of living



# Have an attractive appearance



# Improve home resale value



# Help someone "age in place"



# EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES:

- **Understand the benefits of Universal Design**
- **Identify a process to determine which Universal Design features are most important for your situation**
- **Identify resources available to help locate and install Universal Design Features**

# HOUSEHOLD ASSESSMENT

- **Family structure**
- **Long term goals**
- **Expected changes in the household**
- **Physical abilities**
- **Extended family and friends**

# HOME ASSESSMENT

- **General Features in the Home**
- **Kitchen**
- **Bathroom**
- **Bedroom**
- **Laundry**
- **Stairs**

# TOP 10 FEATURES!

## FIRST FLOOR ACCESS



# TOP 10 FEATURES!

## HANDRAILS



# TOP 10 FEATURES!

## WALK-IN/ROLL-IN SHOWER



# TOP 10 FEATURES!

## GRAB BARS



# TOP 10 FEATURES!

## ACCESSIBLE STORAGE



# TOP 10 FEATURES!

## ADEQUATE LIGHTING



# TOP 10 FEATURES!

## EASY GRIP CONTROLS



# TOP 10 FEATURES!

## ACCESSIBLE APPLIANCES



# TOP 10 FEATURES!

## SAFE FLOORING



# TOP 10 FEATURES!

## SAFETY DEVICES



# WHERE TO FIND THE PRODUCTS

- Home Improvement Stores
- Catalogues
- The Internet
- Specialty Stores

# MAKE A PLAN!

- Not all the changes must take place at once.
- Determine those features that are the most needed/ affordable and do those soon.
- Plan for larger, more expensive changes for the future.

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