

Resources

National Association of Home Builders has a list of Certified Aging-in-Place Specialists who can help you plan your new home design or remodeling. To find one, go to: www.nahb.org/directory.aspx?directoryID=188

AARP has an information on designing more accessible homes at www.aarp.org. Go to this site and put UNIVERSAL DESIGN or ACCESSIBILITY into the search feature of this site.

Maui AgeWave, LLC offers consulting services on accessible home design and modifications. For more information, call (808) 250-2216.

Maui County Council on Aging can be contacted at (808) 270-7755 for more information. Their website is: www.co.maui.hi.us/departments/Housing/aging.htm

Important Dimensions

1. Maximum safe slope for graded walk or ramp1:12
(Requires handrail 34-36" above ramp. Preferred slope is 1:20)
2. No Step Entry 36" door.
Maximum 1/2" thresholds in all locations.
3. Preferred width of Hallways ...42"
Minimum
4. Rectangle needed to accommodate a wheelchair32"x48"
Diameter needed to turn a wheelchair60"
5. Preferred height for blocking and/or grab bars 34"-36"
6. Preferred height for light switches and thermostats 42"-48"
7. Preferred height for electrical outlets 18"-24"

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The Maui Foundation

The Harvard Club of Maui

Maui AgeWave, LLC



COUNTY OF MAUI
STATE OF HAWAII



Basic Home Access For Everyone

**Maui County
Office on Aging
(808) 270-7755**

**With the support and
advice of the
Maui County Council on Aging**

Recommendations For Accessibility

Basic Home Access for Everyone

The primary goal of this brochure is two fold: to develop your awareness of making your new home as “user-friendly” as possible, and to enable you to live safely, comfortably and independently at home during all the seasons of life.

As we grow older, changes in physical abilities can make daily routines more difficult. Climbing stairs, bathing, and moving about our homes can become challenging. Planning ahead and building basic accessibility features into your new home now will enable you to age-in-place and avoid the problems of living in a barrier-filled home.

Every day hundreds of people with disabilities are confined to nursing homes, rehabilitation units and personal care homes because they cannot return to their homes due to stairs, narrow doorways and hallways, and lack of an accessible bathroom on the first floor.

Basic home accessibility requires that people with mobility problems who must use wheelchairs or walkers be able to operate all the usual features of a home, including bathing and cooking facilities.

The three most important features of basic home accessibility are:

1. At least one zero-step entry to the home that does not require the use of stairs.
2. A clear path through wider doorways and hallways.
3. A main floor bathroom that accommodates wheelchairs and walkers.

Design for All

The wide acceptance of accessibility has expanded to include designing homes for all seasons of life which benefits everyone immediately and in the future:

1. The parent pushing a stroller or carrying a child.
2. An elderly relative, resident or visiting guest.
3. Furniture movers.
4. People carrying groceries.
5. Anyone with a permanent disability.

As we grow older, we all want to be able to remain independent and age-in-place and not be forced into a nursing home or long term care facility because of a lack of basic home accessibility.

A well planned accessible home can give you the satisfaction of staying in control and in your own home for a long time. Moreover, the costs of adding accessibility to your new home are relatively low compared to the much higher costs and inconveniences of remodeling later.

“A home without accessibility is a nightmare waiting to happen!”

The Basics

• No Step Entrance

At least one residential entrance to the home that does not require the use of stairs. This entry can be located at the main entrance, the basement, or through the garage. The threshold should be no higher than ½”.

Homes built on post & piers can be built with ramps or reinforced where appropriate for a ramp in the future.

• An Accessible Bathroom

To be usable by individuals in wheelchairs, the bathroom must not only allow them to get through the door, but they have to be able to close the door behind them, be able to transfer onto the toilet and have a 60” diameter turning area.

• A Clear Path of Travel

A clear path of travel from the parking area to the doorway with the zero step, to the common areas of the home including the bathroom. This means 36” doorways and no less than 42” hallways.

• An Accessible Bedroom

A main door accessible room that is or can be used as a bedroom.