

RESOURCES

www.mauicountyadrc.org,
Maui County Office on Aging/
ADRC/Council on Aging

[hawaii.gov/health/dcab/
home/index.htm](http://hawaii.gov/health/dcab/home/index.htm), Disability
and Communication Access
Board, Dept of Health

www.aarp.org, AARP site, en-
ter search words “universal
design” or “accessible remodel-
ing”

www.bbb.org/hawaii, Hawaii
Better Business Bureau

www.nahb.org, National Asso-
ciation of Home Builders,
search for “aging in place” or
“universal design”

notes _____

IMPORTANT DIMENSIONS

1. Maximum safe slope for graded walk or ramp.....1:12 (Requires handrail 34”- 36” above ramp. Preferred slope is 1:20)
2. No Step Entry.....36” wide doorway
3. Preferred width of hallway....42” minimum
4. Rectangle needed to accommodate a wheelchair.....32” x 48”
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”

***A home without accessibility
is a nightmare waiting to
happen!***

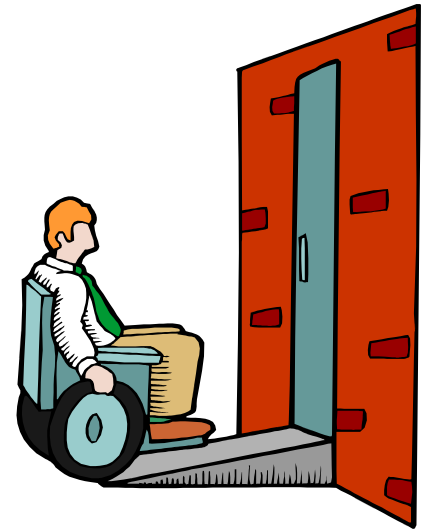
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Maui County Office on Aging



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Access-Ability



Basic Home Access For Everyone

WITH THE SUPPORT AND ADVICE
OF THE
MAUI COUNTY
COUNCIL ON AGING
CR

Recommendations for Access-Ability



Basic Home Access for Everyone

Many adults wish to live in their homes as they grow older. Most existing homes however have structural barriers making it difficult to achieve this goal. These homes may require future modifications in order to accommodate physical accessibility. The cost of refitting an older home can be expensive, whereas planning ahead and building basic accessibility features into your new home may assist you to age in place and avoid the problems of living in a barrier-filled home.

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. These features can also be used to modify existing barriers in your home.

There are many situations where people are confined to nursing homes, rehabilitation units and care homes because they cannot return to their own homes due to stairs, narrow doorways, hallways, and no accessible bathroom on the main floor.

Basic home accessibility requires that people with mobility challenges 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 into 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 that benefits everyone immediately and in the future:

- A parent pushing a stroller or carrying a child,
- An elderly relative, resident, or visiting guest,
- Furniture movers,
- People carrying groceries,
- Anyone with a temporary or permanent disability.

As we grow older, most if not all, want to be able to remain independent and not forced into living in 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.

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 posts and piers can be built with ramps or reinforced where appropriate for a ramp in the future. The preferred slope is 1:20.

▶ An Accessible Bathroom

For individuals using 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. The space should allow a turning radius of 60” diameter and room enough to transfer onto the toilet.

▶ Clear Path of Travel

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

▶ An Accessible Bedroom

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