HOME SAFETY & AGING IN PLACE MODIFICATION CHECKLIST

AFIL — Americans for Independent Living

Home Exterior	Y	N	N/A
Low-maintenance exterior (vinyl, brick)	○	○	○
Low-maintenance shrubs and plants	○	○	○
Deck, patio, or balcony surfaces are no more than ½ inch below interior floor level if made of wood	○	○	○

Overall Floor Plan	Y	N	N/A
Main living on a single story, including full bath	○	○	○
No steps between rooms/areas on the same level	○	○	○
5-foot by 5-foot clear/turn space in living area, kitchen, a bedroom, and a bathroom	○	○	○

Garage or Carport	Y	N	N/A
Covered carports and boarding spaces	○	○	○
Wider than average carports to accommodate lifts on vans	○	○	○
Door heights may need to be nine feet to accommodate some raised roof vans	○	○	○
Five-foot minimum access aisle between accessible van and car in garage	○	○	○
If code requires floor to be several inches below entrance to house for fume protection, can slope entire floor from front to back to eliminate need for ramp or step	○	○	○
Ramp to doorway if needed	○	○	○
Handrail (if steps)	○	○	○

Windows	Y	N	N/A
Plenty of windows for natural light	○	○	○
Lowered windows or taller windows with lower sill height	○	○	○
Low maintenance exterior and interior finishes	○	○	○
Easy to operate hardware	○	○	○

Thresholds	Y	N	N/A
Flush to the ground	○	○	○
Exterior maximum of ½ inch beveled	○	○	○
Interior maximum of ¼ inch	○	○	○

Entry	Y	N	N/A
Accessible path of travel to the home	○	○	○
At least one no-step entry with a cover	○	○	○
Sensor light at exterior no-step entry focusing on the front-door lock	○	○	○
32 inches of clear width (which requires a 36-inch door)	○	○	○
Non-slip flooring in foyer	○	○	○
Entry door sidelight or high/low peep hole viewer; sidelight should provide both privacy and safety	○	○	○
Doorbell in accessible location	○	○	○
Surface to place packages on when opening door	○	○	○

Ramps	Y	N	N/A
Slope no greater than one inch rise for each 12 inches in length, adequate handrails	○	○	○
Five-foot landing provided at entrance	○	○	○
Two-inch curbs for safety	○	○	○

Hallways	Y	N	N/A
Minimum of 36 inches wide	○	○	○
Well lit	○	○	○

Stairways, Lifts, and Elevators	Y	N	N/A
Adequate hand rails on both sides of stairway, 1 ¼-inch diameter	○	○	○
Increased visibility of stairs through contrast strip on top and bottom stairs, color contrast between treads and risers on stairs and use of lighting	○	○	○
Multi-story homes may provide either pre-framed shaft (ie. stacked closets) for future elevator, or stairway width must be minimum of 4 feet to allow space for lift	○	○	○
Residential elevator or lift	○	○	○

Interior Doors	Y	N	N/A
32 inches of clear width (which requires a 36-inch door)	○	○	○
Levered door hardware	○	○	○

Kitchen and Laundry Counters	Y	N	N/A
Wall support and provision for adjustable and/or varied height counters and removable base cabinets	○	○	○
Upper wall cabinetry three inches lower than conventional height	○	○	○
Accented stripes on edge of countertops to provide visual orientation to the workspace	○	○	○
Counter space for dish landing adjacent to or opposite all appliances	○	○	○
Base cabinet with roll out trays and lazy susans	○	○	○
Pull-down shelving	○	○	○
Glass-front cabinet doors	○	○	○
Open shelving for easy access to frequently used items	○	○	○

Appliances	Y	N	N/A
Easy to read controls	○	○	○
Washing machine and dryer raised 12 to 15 inches above floor	○	○	○
Front loading laundry machines	○	○	○
Microwave oven at counter height or in wall	○	○	○
Side-by-side refrigerator/freezer	○	○	○
Side-swing or wall oven	○	○	○
Raised dishwasher with pushbutton controls	○	○	○
Electric cook top with level burners for safety in transferring between the burners, front controls and downdraft feature to pull heat away from user; light to indicate when surface is hot	○	○	○

Miscellaneous	Y	N	N/A
30-inch by 48-inch clear space at appliances or 60-inch diameter clear space for turns	○	○	○
Multi-level work areas to accommodate cooks of different heights	○	○	○
Open under-counter seated work areas	○	○	○
Placement of task lighting in appropriate work areas	○	○	○

Miscellaneous (Continued)	Y	N	N/A
Loop handles for easy grip and pull	○	○	○
Pull-out spray faucet; levered handles	○	○	○
In multi-story homes, laundry chute or laundry facilities in master bedroom	○	○	○

Faucets	Y	N	N/A
Lever handles or pedal-controlled	○	○	○
Thermostatic or anti-scald controls	○	○	○
Pressure balanced faucets	○	○	○

Bathroom	Y	N	N/A
Wall support and provision for adjustable and/or varied height counters & removable base cabinets	○	○	○
Contrasting color edge border at countertops	○	○	○
At least one wheelchair maneuverable bath on main level with 60-inch turning radius or acceptable T-turn space and 36-inch by 36-inch or 30-inch by 48-inch clear space	○	○	○
Bracing in walls around tub, shower, shower seat, and toilet for installation of grab bars to support 250–300 pounds	○	○	○
If stand-up shower is used in main bath, it is curbless and minimum of 36 inches wide	○	○	○
Bathtub – lower for easier access	○	○	○
Fold down seat in the shower	○	○	○
Adjustable/ handheld showerheads, 6-foot hose	○	○	○
Tub/Shower controls offset from center	○	○	○
Shower stall with built-in antibacterial protection	○	○	○
Light in shower stall	○	○	○
Toilet 2 ½ inches higher than standard toilet (17 to 19 inches) or height-adjustable	○	○	○
Design of the toilet paper holder allows rolls to be changed with one hand	○	○	○
Wall-hung sink with knee space and panel to protect user from pipes	○	○	○
Slip-resistant flooring in bathroom and shower	○	○	○

Storage	Y	N	N/A
Adjustable closet rods and shelves	○	○	○
Lighting in closets	○	○	○
Easy open doors that do not obstruct access	○	○	○

Flooring	Y	N	N/A
Smooth, non-glare, slip-resistant surfaces, interior and exterior	○	○	○
If carpeted, use low (less than ½ inch high pile) density, with firm pad	○	○	○
Color/texture contrast to indicate change in surface levels	○	○	○

Electrical, Lighting, Safety, and Security	Y	N	N/A
Light switches by each entrance to halls and rooms	○	○	○
Light receptacles with at least two bulbs in vital places (exits, bathroom)	○	○	○
Light switches, thermostats, and other environmental controls placed in accessible locations no higher than 48 inches from floor	○	○	○
Electrical outlets 15 inches on center from floor; may need to be closer than 12 feet apart	○	○	○
Clear access space of 30 inches by 48 inches in front of switches and controls	○	○	○
Rocker or touch light switches	○	○	○
Audible and visual strobe light system to indicate when the doorbell, telephone, smoke or CO2 detectors have been activated	○	○	○
High-tech security/intercom system that can be monitored, with the heating, air conditioning, and lighting, from any TV in the house	○	○	○
Easy-to-see and read thermostats	○	○	○
Pre-programmed thermostats	○	○	○
Flashing porch light or 911 switch	○	○	○
Direct wired to police, fire, and EMS (as option)	○	○	○
Home wired for security	○	○	○
Home wired for computers	○	○	○

Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning	Y	N	N/A
HVAC should be designed so filters are easily accessible	○	○	○
Energy-efficient units	○	○	○
Windows that can be opened for cross ventilation, fresh air	○	○	○

Energy-Efficient Features	Y	N	N/A
In-line framing with two by six studs spaced 24-inch on center	○	○	○
Air-barrier installation and sealing of duct work with mastic	○	○	○
Reduced-size air conditioning units with gas furnaces	○	○	○
Mechanical fresh air ventilation, installation of air returns in all bedrooms and use of carbon monoxide detectors	○	○	○
Installation of energy efficient windows with Low-E glass	○	○	○

Reduced Maintenance/Convenience Features	Y	N	N/A
Easy to clean surfaces	○	○	○
Central vacuum	○	○	○
Built-in pet feeding system	○	○	○
Built-in recycling system	○	○	○
Video phones	○	○	○
Intercom system	○	○	○

Contact AFIL's home modification team today!

Call 319-243-9932 or email afil@afiliowa.org

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