



What is VisitAble Housing?

The intent of "VisitAble" housing is to provide easy access into the home and through the main level to create a welcoming environment for all persons of all ages and abilities. The design of the dwelling unit is focused on providing accessibility for persons who may have difficulty climbing stairs or have limited mobility and require the use of assistive devices such as wheelchairs, power chairs or walkers.

Advantages of VisitAble Housing

- Provides opportunities for individuals to participate in community life.
- Low cost when implemented into initial construction and adds value to the property.
- Eliminates costs and materials for future renovations.

Design Features

1



Zero-step Entrance

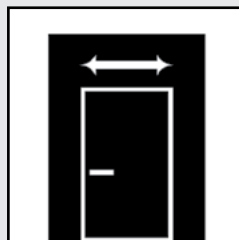
Basic Features

- No-step entrance to the dwelling unit
- May be located for any entrance to the dwelling unit
- Clear width at entry of minimum 860 mm (965 mm standard door) Walkway, gradient no steeper than 1:20 (5%)
- Ramps, gradient no steeper than 1:12 (8%)
- Vestibules, Door swing + minimum 1500 mm (doors in series) or minimum 1500 mm turning circle where unaligned doors.

Enhanced Features

- Vestibules, Door swing + 2500 mm (doors in series) 2500 mm turning circle where unaligned doors.

2



Wider doors on main floor

Basic Features

- Minimum clear door width: 860 mm (34")

Enhanced Features

- Minimum clear door width: 950 mm (37.5")
- Minimum hallway width: 915 mm (36")



3



**Bathroom on
main floor**

Basic Features

- Required accessible bathroom amenities: accessible sink, toilet, accessories.
- Clear floor space 900 mm x 1500 mm (35" x 60") beside toilet.
- Wall reinforcement for future installation of grab bars.

Enhanced Features

- Turning space of 2500 mm (98") for mobility devices
- Full bathroom with all accessible elements:
 - Adequate grab bars
 - Roll-in shower with seat
- Clear floor space of 900 mm x 1500 mm (35" x 60") beside toilet and in front of sink
- Reinforced bathroom walls for future grab bar placement

Additional Enhanced Features

Exterior Access

- Parking area of 4100 mm x 5500 mm (161" x 217") to provide transfer space for persons using mobility devices
- Exterior path of travel should be firm, stable and slip-resistant
- Use plants to enhance way-finding through olfactory senses
- Colour contrast and easily legible address and signage on exterior of home

Bedroom

- Accessible placements of electronic controls ranging in height between 900 mm - 1100 mm (35" - 43")
- Bedroom on main floor with clear turning space of 2500 mm (98") and a closet rod ranging in height between 860 mm - 1270 mm (34" - 50")

Additional Resources

- <http://www.visitablehousingcanada.com/>
- <http://www.accessiblesociety.org/>
- <http://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/>