

Clearing the Path checklist

All or most of the below listed features should be provided, but they are not requirements for nomination:

Accessible Pathways and Entrances

- Clear, obstacle-free pathway to front entrance from the vehicle parking area.
- At least one no-step entrance to the home.
- Grading/slopes not exceeding a pitch of one (1) foot in rise for every 20 feet in length.
- Handrails where needed.
- Covered overhang at entrance for inclement weather protection.
- Package shelf at front entranceway for parcels, groceries, etc.
- High-visibility address numbers (illuminated if possible).
- Front door width of 36 inches, with maximum ½ inch high threshold with beveled edges.
- Lever-set front door handles (dual-function release, deadbolt preferred).
- Clear, level turning circle (minimum five (5) x five (5) feet on both sides of entry doorway).
- Full-length sidelight(s) at entry, window in door, or double peepholes (one at normal height and one at 42 inches height).
- Audible front doorbell heard throughout house.
- Good lighting along path to entrance, and especially at entrance.

Interior Features Throughout

- Master bedroom/bathroom on the ground floor of multi-story home.
- Doors to rooms and closets that are 36 inches wide.
- All thresholds maximum ½ inches high and with beveled top edges.
- Lever style door handles throughout.
- No more than five-pounds maximum force to open doors.
- Eighteen inches minimum space beside in-swing latch side of doorway.
- Hallways at least 42 inches wide.
- Non-slip, low maintenance flooring surfaces and/or low-pile or loop carpeting over dense but thin commercial type padding.
- Windowsills in living, dining, and bedroom areas at a height of no more than 30 inches.
- Skylights wherever possible.

- Thermostats with large print, easily readable numbers and controls, and mounted no more than 53 inches high from finished floor to center of thermostat (48 inches for wheelchair users).
- Adjustable height poles and shelves in all closets.
- No floor elevation changes.
- Furniture with rounded corners, properly scaled for each room, and which allows easy movement. Furniture of the correct firmness, easy to get in and out of.
- Color contrast between door jambs and adjacent walls.

Lighting and Electrical Throughout

- Night lights in bathrooms and pathways leading from bedrooms to bathrooms.
- Light switches with large rocker-type switches (preferably illuminated), located within easy reach at the entrance to each room, mounted 36 to 42 inches high from finished floor to center of switch.
- All electrical wall outlets to be grounded type and mounted at 18 inches height from finished floor to center of outlet.
- Telephone jacks in all rooms mounted at 18 inches height from finished floor to center of outlet. Consider wall-mounted phones in bathroom, laundry, and kitchen.
- Light with electronic ballasts and fluorescent lamps in the 3500k to 4100k color range.
- All light fixtures and window treatments that provide glare-free lighting.

Kitchen

- Minimum five (5) foot diameter clear open space in kitchen.
- An L-shaped counter with sink, cook-top and oven works best. Allows sliding heavy hot items safely without having to lift and carry. Cook-top counter 30 to 34 inches height from finished floor when possible.
- Radius or beveled counter corners for safety. Consider contrasting border edge color.
- At least 18 to 24 inches of clear countertop surface on both sides of cook-top and sink, and at least 24 inches of clear countertop surface at one side of refrigerator and built-in oven.
- Cabinets with plywood box construction. Lower cabinets with full extension drawers instead of fixed shelves.
- Cabinet doors and drawers with easy-to-open and easy-to-grasp handles.
- Cabinet door hinges that open 170 to 180 degrees on cabinet doors under cook-top and sink.
- Cabinets under sink and cook top cabinets with an open or removable section 30 inches wide x 27 inches high x 19 inches deep space underneath.

- Heat insulated waste and hot water lines.
- Upper cabinets mounted at 13 to 15 inches above counter top. Consider glass door upper cabinets for good content visibility.
- Standard dishwasher unit that is, or drawer-type dishwasher for ease of use.
- Wall-mounted oven at height so that center of control panel is about 48 inches from finished floor, and center shelf is about level with adjacent countertop with easy to read and operate controls. Consider self-cleaning and convection features.
- Heat-resistant surface counter-top adjacent to oven for easy transfer of hot dishes.
- Free-standing microwave unit set on counter-top for ease of use.
- Cook-top with easy-to-reach and hold front or side located controls.
- Finished floors and walls under sink and cook-top.
- Sink of 18 gauge stainless steel with 6-inch deep basins and drains offset to rear.
- Faucet with single-lever and high arc type with pull-out spray head.
- Anti-scald valve set at 120 degrees maximum.
- Exhaust fan with correct airflow capacity and quiet operation features.
- Fan control switch at front of counter for easy reach when seated.
- Electronic ballast fluorescent task lighting under upper cabinets.
- Fluorescent recessed or surface ambient lighting fixtures with electronic ballasts and lamps in 3500k to 4100k range in kitchen ceiling for good, even general illumination.
- Easy-to-maintain floor surface material in light color.
- Halon type fire extinguisher in an easy-to-reach location.

Bathrooms

- Entry door 36 inches wide, but not less than 34 inches. In renovation work, out swing can be used when appropriate.
- Five foot diameter clear space in bathrooms, or a T-shaped 3'x 5' with 2'x5'-T.
- Resilient floor surface material such as contractor grade, no-wax, slip-resistant sheet vinyl in light color with self-cove base.
- In-wall plywood or blocking reinforcement to allow later installation of grab-bars with 250 lb load support capacity around the tub, toilet, and shower.
- Towel bars securely mounted in case of need to grasp during a fall.
- Bathroom sink cabinets with 30inches wide x 27incheshigh x 19inches deep open space underneath to allow a seated person to easily use.
- Insulated hot water line and waste line under sink.
- Single lever faucet with anti-scald valve in hot side set at 120 degrees maximum.
- Mirror and medicine cabinet bottoms directly above sink's rear backsplash to allow easy use when seated.
- Bathtub with non-slip bottom, and 24 inches minimum full length seated drying space alongside.
- Bathtub lever type controls offset near to the entry side of the tub.

- Anti-scald valve set at 120 degrees maximum for hot water line in tub.
- Curb-less shower unit with minimum 42 inches wide by 60 inches long non-slip base.
- Offset single lever type shower control mounted near entry.
- No tile in bathrooms. especially in shower unit, for safety and ease of cleaning.
- Shower walls with plywood or blocking reinforcement to allow later installation of grab-bars (250 lb load support capacity).
- Shower spray unit with detachable hand- held shower head with minimum six (6) foot long hose and water shut-off button or lever on head.
- Elongated toilet at 16 to 16-1/2 inches high elongated type unit. Sixty inches diameter clear space or minimum 3'x5' and 18 inches minimum from side wall and adjacent vanity.
- Exhaust fan with correct airflow capacity, and maximum quiet 1.5 sones noise level operation, controlled by a separate switch.
- 2-lamp, 48 inches long surface mounted 6 x 6 inches wrap-around acrylic diffuser light fixture, with electronic ballast and T8, 3500k lamps. Mount directly above vanity mirror. Light fixture above shower and/or tub light fixtures of moisture resistant type with compact fluorescent lamp.

Bedrooms

- Good lighting, preferably fluorescent, in all closets with light switch mounted directly adjacent to and outside the closet doorway.
- Closet doorway at least 36 inches clear opening width minimum.
- High quality ceiling mounted general illumination light fixtures in each bedroom as well as table-top and/or wall-mounted task lighting.
- Provide 36 inches clear space on two sides of the bed and 60 inches clear on the third side.
- Telephone jack near the bed.

Laundry and/or Utility Rooms

- Front-load washer and dryer with front-mounted, easy-to-use controls.
- Platform mount for washer and dryer nine (9) inches from the finished floor.