

Accessibility Continuum Chart

Accessible housing functions on a continuum, with VisitAble housing taking the simplest form. Here are a few design features to consider in planning your home.

VisitAble housing: allows social visits by people using a mobility device

Enhanced VisitAbility: opens up more areas of the home for visitors with disabilities

Adaptable housing: can be easily modified to suit residents with disabilities

Accessible housing: meets the needs of a resident with disabilities

Universal design: accessible to all, including older adults, people with disabilities, children

Minimum Features

	VisitAble Design	Enhanced Visitability	Adaptable Housing	Accessible Housing	Universal Design
No-step entrance with accessible path to entrance	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Minimum doorway width of 915 mm (36 inches) with lever handles on all doors and minimum hallway width of 1,100 mm (43 inches)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Accessible half bathroom with: reinforced walls and support features, lever faucets, manoeuvring space to access the sink and toilet, room for transfer space around the toilet	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Overnight space		✓	✓	✓	✓
Non-slip floor washrooms		✓	✓	✓	✓
Audio visual alarms		✓	✓	✓	✓
Kitchen allows wheelchair manoeuvring in front of all appliances		✓	✓	✓	✓
Lever faucets in kitchen		✓	✓	✓	✓
Rocker or touch-sensitive switches and controls		✓	✓	✓	✓
Raised electrical receptacles		✓	✓	✓	✓
Lower controls: light switches, thermostats, intercom, door bells, alarms pads		✓	✓	✓	✓
Adjustable heights of closet rods		✓	✓	✓	✓
Adequate lighting at entrance area		✓	✓	✓	✓
Adequate latch space for proper approach		✓	✓	✓	✓
At least one accessible bedroom			✓	✓	✓
Direct access from house into garage			✓	✓	✓
Large parking space can be converted to garage			✓	✓	✓
Stacked closet convertible to elevator shaft			✓	✓	✓
Manoeuvring space throughout home including laundry, kitchen, bedrooms			✓	✓	✓
Curbless shower with door replaceable by curtain			✓	✓	✓
Seats in showers and next to tub			✓	✓	✓
All areas of dwelling unit are accessible through use of elevator or stair lift			✓	✓	✓
Adjustable counter heights			✓	✓	✓
Off-set controls for bathtub and shower			✓	✓	✓
Adjustable closet			✓	✓	✓
Strobe lights on smoke detectors				✓	✓
Audible signals				✓	✓
Lower countertop segments				✓	✓
Seats next to bathroom fixtures				✓	✓
Off-centre bathtub controls				✓	✓
Usability balanced with aesthetics					✓
Meets needs of a range of persons without adaptation or specialized design					✓
Increased safety, convenience, and comfort for all					✓

Where does VisitAbility sit in terms of other types of designs out there?

