



The following excerpt has been taken from the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation Paralysis Resource Center website.

http://www.christopherreeve.org/site/c.mtKZKgMWKwG/b.4453475/k.A820/Home_Modification.htm

Home Modification

The world isn't flat or paved, of course, and for the most part no one was thinking about people using wheelchairs or walkers when they designed all our buildings. But things are changing as disability activists -- joined by the largest ever U.S. generation as it heads toward its senior years -- have pushed to open up access to all people, including those with paralysis or mobility problems.

There are laws now about making schools, transportation, housing, public accommodations and the sidewalks in every city fully accessible. For most people, though, access has more to do with getting in the house, working in the kitchen, using the bathroom.

Home modification could be as simple as a doorknob that's easy to work, a grab bar in the right place, or a ramp to get in through the back door. It may involve a wider door, a special sink or the installation of an elevator. It gets as complicated as any architect can make it.

Websites

<http://www.abledata.com>

Abledata

A national resource databases on adaptive technology products, including home modification. See their Informed Consumer's Guide to Accessible Housing at

<http://www.abledata.com/abledata.cfm?pageid=19327&top=10445&deep=2&trail=22>

Abledata: Environmental Adaptations

http://www.abledata.com/abledata_docs/icg-hous.htm

Abledata: Informed Consumer's Guide to Accessible Housing

<http://www.accessibleproperties.net>

Accessible Properties

A database of handicap and wheelchair accessible properties for sale or rent in 7 countries.

<http://www.accessiblespace.org/>

Accessible Space, Inc.

2550 University Avenue, Suite 330N

St. Paul, Minnesota 55114

Phone: 651-645-7271, 800-466-7722

E-mail: info@accessiblespace.org

The mission of Accessible Space, Inc. (ASI) is to provide accessible, affordable, assisted/supportive and independent living opportunities for persons with physical disabilities and brain injuries, as well as seniors.

<http://www.accessibilitydesign.com>

Accessibility Design

3238 Cavell Lane

Minneapolis, MN 55426

Phone: 952-925-0301

E-mail: info@accessibilitydesign.com

A home modification consulting and design firm serving Minnesota and neighboring states.

<http://www.accessibilitypro.com/>

Accessibility Professionals

1623 Military Road #741

Niagara Falls, NY 14304-1745

Phone: 877-947-7769

E-mail: info@accessibilitypro.com

Accessibility Professionals specializes in making bathrooms and kitchens accessible for people with disabilities and seniors. The company serves the U.S. and Canada.

<http://www.aarp.org>

AARP

Typing “universal design” in the search box will bring up a range of articles.

<http://www.aema.com/>

AEMA: An Association of Members of the Accessibility Industry

PO Box 380

Metamora, Illinois, 61548-0380

Phone: 800-514-1100 (Toll-Free)

E-mail: info@aema.com

AEMA is an association of persons and entities with an interest in the Private Residence Elevator and Accessibility Equipment industry.

<http://www.ap.buffalo.edu/idea/Home/index.asp>

Center for Inclusive Design and Environmental Access (IDeA)

University at Buffalo
School of Architecture and Planning
3435 Main Street, 114 Diefendorf Hall
Buffalo, NY 14214-3087
Phone: 716-829-5902
E-mail: ap-idea@buffalo.edu

The IDeA Center is dedicated to improving the design of environments and products by making them more usable, safer and appealing to people with a wide range of abilities, throughout their life spans. IDeA practices human centered design through research, development, service, dissemination and educational activities.

<http://www.design.ncsu.edu/cud/>

The Center for Universal Design

Universal Design Initiative: CUD | RED Lab
College of Design
North Carolina State University
Campus Box 8613
Raleigh, NC 27695-8613
E-mail: cud@ncsu.edu

A national research, information, and technical assistance center at North Carolina State University College of Design that evaluates, develops, and promotes universal design in housing, public and commercial facilities, and related products.

<http://www.choicesil.com/>

Chairs & Cares Model Accessible Home

415 W. Campus Drive
Wausau, WI 54401
Phone: 715-675-7600

Choices for Independent Living has a demonstration accessible house and is open to the public daily, in Wausau, Wisconsin.

http://www.wheelchairnet.org/WCN_Living/homemod.html

Community Living: Home Modifications

This site provides links to other resources as well as articles on adaptive design, ideas for kitchens, bathrooms, decks and possible funding sources.

<http://www.concretechange.org/>

Concrete Change

600 Dancing Fox Road
Decatur, GA 30032
Phone: 404-378-7455

E-mail: concretechange@mindspring.com

An international network that advocates for making all new homes accessible.

<http://www.disabilityrights.org/mod3.htm>

Council for Disability Rights: Home Modification Funding Sources

A list of funding sources for home modifications (both national and local to Illinois).

<http://www.designlinc.com>

The Design Linc: Accessibility Designs and Resources.

The Design Linc provides resources, information and tips on accessibility design.

<http://www.disability-resource.com/accessible-housing.html>

Disability Resource Directory: Accessible Housing

A list of accessible housing resources for designers, builders & homeowners.

<http://www.ehls.com/>

Extended Home Living Services (EHLS)

555 North Wolf Road

Wheeling, Illinois 60090

Phone: 847-215-9490

Email: ehlsinfo@ehls.com

EHLS does accessibility modifications and accessibility consulting for homes and public buildings in northeastern Illinois, southeastern Wisconsin and northwestern Indiana.

<http://www.habitat.org>

Habitat for Humanity International

Habitat for Humanity builds simple, decent and affordable houses with people in need around the world, regardless of race or religion. Habitat for Humanity's commitment to build with people in need readily extends to those with disabilities. When possible, Habitat houses incorporate basic accessible design features, such as a zero-step entrance and wide passage doors and hallways. Houses built in partnership with families with disabilities include additional accessibility features.

<http://www.homemods.org/>

Home Modifications

This site (originally created by the National Resource Center on Supportive Housing and Home Modification) offers information and resources on home modification, including training and education opportunities for professionals.

<http://www.homesforeasyliving.com>

Homes for Easy Living Universal Design Consultants

Phone: 760-409-7565

The company's mission is to enhance quality of life for people of all ages and abilities through community-based health and wellness programs, assistive technology and the incorporation of the principles of universal design in the design of communities, products, new homes and remodeling of existing homes.

<http://www.infinitec.org/live/>

Infinitec Inc.

Infinitec staff helps people with disabilities find and get access to information, technology services, training, assistive equipment and specialists by creating partnerships that maximize resources. The *Live* section of the site has a section on home modification with lots of information and resources, including funding options.

<http://www.humancentereddesign.org/>

Institute for Human Centered Design

200 Portland Street, Suite 1

Boston, MA 02114

Phone: 617-695-1225 (voice/TTY)

E-mail: info@HumanCenteredDesign.org

The Institute for Human Centered Design (formerly Adaptive Environments) is an international non-governmental educational organization committed to advancing the role of design in expanding opportunity and enhancing experience for people of all ages and abilities through excellence in design.

<http://www.wheelchairramp.org/>

The Minnesota Ramp Project: Making Homes Accessible

The Minnesota Ramp Project provides information on building ramps, including safety tips and potential funding sources. The *How to Build Wheelchair Ramps for Homes* manual of design and construction for modular wheelchair ramps is available for purchase or free download from the site.

<http://www.usc.edu/dept/gero/nrcshhm/directory/>

National Resource Center on Supportive Housing and Home Modification (NRCSHHM)

USC Andrus Gerontology Center

3715 McClintock Avenue

Los Angeles, CA 90089

Phone: 213-740-1364

NRCSHHM is based at the University of Southern California's Ethel Percy Andrus Gerontology Center. The Center's mission is to make supportive housing and home modification a more integral component of successful aging, long-term care, preventive health, and the development of elder-friendly communities. The site includes the National Directory of Home Modification and Repair Resources, a newsletter, a library and links to other organizations.

<http://www.otrassn.org/>

Over the Rainbow Association

An Illinois not-for-profit association dedicated to providing independent living solutions and employment opportunities for individuals with physical disabilities.

<http://www.pva.org/>

Paralyzed Veterans of America – Architecture Program

PVA Architecture does not provide private home architectural services at this time. However, for more information regarding home alterations, you can purchase their *Accessible Home Design: Architectural Solutions for the Wheelchair User* book at www.pva.org/architecture. This book contains a comprehensive discussion of accessible home as well as methods for designing, financing, and constructing your residential project. The scope of projects ranges from small homeowner additions to large multi-family communities.

<http://rampsacrossamerica.org/>

RAMPS Across America

c/o Riverside Rehabilitation Institute
245 Chesapeake Avenue
Newport News, VA 23607
Phone: 757-327-0696

Ramps Across America's mission is to provide individuals with mobility restrictions a safe ramp for their home. Volunteers provide free design and construction.

<http://www.rebuildingtogether.org/>

Rebuilding Together

1899 L Street NW, Suite 1000
Washington D.C. 20036
Phone: 800-473-4229

Rebuilding Together provides free home modifications and repairs to make homes safer, more accessible, and more energy efficient.

<http://www.simplifieddisabledhousing.com>

Simplified Disabled Housing

Simplified Disabled Housing is a patent-pending system that individualizes homes by offering multiple styles, three different heights, widths, and depths, and left/right handedness options for the components of a home, thereby maximizing independence through greater accessibility.

<http://www.access-board.gov/>

United States Access Board

An independent federal agency devoted to accessibility for people with disabilities. The board develops and enforces accessibility requirements for the built environment, transit vehicles, telecommunications equipment, and for electronic and information technology.

Publications

<http://www.unitedspinal.org/publications/action/2006/03/24/affording-accessibility-home-modifications/>

Moakley, Terry. “Affording Accessibility Home Modifications”. *Action Online*.

Information on loans and grants available to help some people with spinal cord disabilities afford home modifications.

http://www.wheelchairnet.org/WCN_ProdServ/Docs/TeamRehab/RR_94/9404art3.PDF

Mullick, Abir. “**Bathing Easy**”. *TeamRehab Report*, April 1994

This article covers accessible bath products.

http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/Products_Materials/pdf/Home_Modification.doc

Administration on Aging: Home Modification fact sheet (April 2009)

This fact sheet provides information on home modifications, including how to evaluate homes for needed changes, and financing options.

<http://www.wheelchairramp.org/rampman/manual/rampindx.htm>

Metropolitan Center for Independent Living: How to Build Ramps for Home Accessibility. Fourth edition.

See <http://www.wheelchairramp.org/rampman/manual/ramp65.htm> for order form.

Streaming Video

http://sci.washington.edu/info/forums/reports/home_mod_07.asp

Home Adaptations and Modifications after Spinal Cord Injury

Video of June 12, 2007 presentation by Pam Stockman, Occupational Therapist, University of Washington Medical Center.

The following books and videos are available for free loan from the PRC library. For more information, please see www.paralysis.org and click *Borrow from Our Lending Library* under PRC Quick Links.

Books

- **The Accessible Home: Updating Your Home for Changing Physical Needs.** Chanhassen, Minn.: Creative Publishing International, 2003.
- **Accessible Housing Design File: Barrier-Free Environments.** New York: John Wiley & Sons, 1991.
- **The ADA Cost Catalog for Access Modifications.** Horsham: PA: LRP Publications, 1994. Available from publisher.
Note: this book is too old for the costs to be relevant, may be useful for suggestions on what to modify and various measurements.

- Ayala, A.M. **The Right Space: A Wheelchair Accessibility Guide for Single-Family Homes**. Chandler, Ariz.: Debold-Marquez Books, 2005. Available from www.trspace.com or www.amazon.com
- **Consumer's Guide to Home Adaptation**. Boston: Adaptive Environments Center, 2002.
- Davies, Thomas D. Jr. and Carol Peredo Lopez. **Accessible Home Design: Architectural Solutions for the Wheelchair User**. Washington, DC: Paralyzed Veterans of America, 2006. Second edition.
- Dobkin, Irma and Mary Jo Peterson. **Universal Interiors by Design: Gracious Spaces**. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1999.
- Drager, Sharon. **Exploring Independent Living: Designing a Home to Meet Your Needs**. Victoria, BC, Canada: Trafford, 2004.
- **A House for All Children: Planning a Supportive Home Environment for Children with Disabilities**. Newark, NJ: New Jersey Institute of Technology, 2000.
- Imrie, Rob. **Accessible Housing: Quality, Disability and Design**. New York: Routledge, 2006.
- Jacobs, Jessie C. **Accessible Bathroom Design: "Tearing Down the Barriers"**. San Jose, Calif.: 2007. Second edition.
- Jordan, Wendy A. **Universal Design for the Home: Great-Looking, Great-Living Design for All Ages, Abilities, and Circumstances**. Beverly, Mass.: Quarry Books, 2008.
- Lasoff, Susan and Linda Lorentzen. **The Accessible Home: Easy Ways to Improve the Safety, Function, and Value of Your Home**. Minneapolis, MN: Fairview Press, 2003.
- Lebovich, William L. **Design for Dignity: Accessible Environments for People with Disabilities**. New York: John Wiley & Sons, 1993.
Covers homes as well as schools, buildings, and offices.
- Leibrock, Cynthia with Susan Behar. **Beautiful Barrier-Free: A Visual Guide to Accessibility**. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1993.
- Leibrock, Cynthia A. and James Evan Terry. **Beautiful Universal Design: A Visual Guide**. New York: John Wiley & Sons, 1999.

- **Means ADA Compliance Pricing Guide: Cost Estimates for More Than 70 Common Modifications.** Kingston, Mass.: Reed Construction Data, 2004.
- Peterson, Mary Jo. **The National Kitchen and Bath Association Presents Universal Kitchen and Bathroom Planning: Design that Adapts to People.** New York: McGraw-Hill, 1998.
- **Products and Plans for Universal Homes: Over 1,700 Products from over 450 Manufacturers Plus, 51 Plans for Universal Homes.** Tucson, AZ: Home Planners, LLC, 2000.
- Riley, Charles A. II. **High-Access Home: Design and Decoration for Barrier-Free Living.** New York: Rizzoli, 1999.
- Sandlin, Lisa. **Houses That Work for Life!** North Charleston, SC: Booksurge Publishing, 2009.
- Steven Winter Associates. **Accessible Housing by Design: Universal Design Principles in Practice.** New York: McGraw-Hill, 1997.
- Thorpe, Stephen and Habinteg Housing Association. **Wheelchair Housing Design Guide.** Bracknell, England: IHS BRE, 2010. 2nd ed. Reprint 2010.
- **Universal Design Ideas for Style, Comfort & Safety.** Kingston, Mass.: RSMeans, 2007.
- **Universal Designed Smart Homes for the 21st Century.** Moline, IL: Schwab Publishers, 2004. www.universaldesignonline.com
- Van Bommel, Harry. **No Place Like Home: Home Modifications and Renovations for People with Disabilities and Other Long-Term Care Needs.** Scarborough, Ontario, Canada: Legacies: Family and Community Resources, 2006.

Videos

- **Home and Workplace Accommodations: Modifications that Enhance Independence.** (TechTalk series) New York, NY: UCP of New York, 1999. 24 minutes.
- **A House for All Children: Planning a Supportive Home Environment for Children with Disabilities.** Newark, NJ: New Jersey Institute of Technology, 2000. (32 minutes) A companion to the book of the same name. Order form available at <http://www.ahouseforallchildren.njit.edu/order.htm>.

- **Safe At Home: Planning for Independence Through Home Modifications.** International Rehabilitation Center for Polio at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital, 2002. Narrated by Bob Vila. (23 minutes)
- **Tips for Building Modular Ramps and Steps.** St. Paul, MN: MCIL, Inc., 1999. See <http://www.wheelchairramp.org/rampman/manual/ramp65.htm> for order form.

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