

Aging-In-Place Remodeling Checklist

We've put together a handy checklist to help you transform your home for Aging-In-Place. This guide covers key considerations and offers practical suggestions for your renovation. If you have any questions or need advice as you plan, don't hesitate to reach out to NorthStar D+C. Our team of certified Aging-In-Place specialists are here to support you every step of the way!

Exterior

- ☐ Does your house have a low-maintenance exterior (vinyl, brick)?
- ☐ Do you have low-maintenance shrubs and plants?
- ☐ Your deck, patio, or balcony surfaces should be no more than a half inch below interior floor level if made of wood

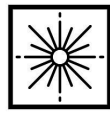
Entry

- ☐ Is there an accessible path of travel to the home?
- ☐ Do you have at least one no-step entry with a cover?
- ☐ Is there a sensor light at an exterior no-step entry focusing on the front-door lock?
- ☐ There should be 32-inches clear width opening, which requires a 36-inch door if a wheelchair is required
- ☐ You should have non-slip flooring in foyer
- ☐ Entry door sidelight or high/low peep hole viewer; sidelight should provide both privacy and safety
- ☐ Is your doorbell in an accessible location?
- ☐ Do you have a surface to place packages on when opening the door?

Overall Floor Plan

- ☐ Main living on a single story, including full bath
- ☐ No steps between rooms/areas on the same level
- ☐ 5' x 5' clear/turn space in living space, kitchen, bedroom, and bathroom





Hallways

- ☐ Minimum of 36" wide, wider if possible
- ☐ Well lit

Thresholds

- ☐ Flush preferable or low transition
- ☐ Exterior flooring/surface maximum of ½" beveled
- ☐ Interior flooring/surface maximum difference of ¼"

Interior Doors

- ☐ 32" clear width, with requires a 36" interior door
- ☐ Levered door hardware

Windows

- ☐ Natural light
- ☐ Lower windows or full height windows with a lower sill height
- ☐ Low maintenance exterior and interior finishes
- ☐ Easy to operate hardware

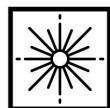
Garage or Carport

- ☐ Covered carports and boarding spaces are key when extra time is needed
- ☐ Wider than average carports to accommodate lifts on vehicles
- ☐ Garage heights may need to be 9' tall to accommodate some raised roof vans
- ☐ 5' minimum wide path between accessible vehicle and car in garage or wall

Faucets

- ☐ Lever handles or pedal-controlled recommended
- ☐ Thermostatic or anti-scald controls
- ☐ Pressure balanced faucets





Kitchen and Laundry

Kitchen Counters

- ☐ Wall support and options for variable height counters and removable base cabinets for roll in wheelchairs
- ☐ Upper wall cabinets

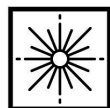
Appliances

- ☐ Easy to read controls
- ☐ Washing machine and dryer raised 12"-15" above floor
- ☐ Front loading laundry machines preferred
- ☐ Microwave oven at counter height or in wall
- ☐ Side-by-side refrigerator/freezer
- ☐ Side-swing or wall oven
- ☐ Raised dishwasher with push-button controls
- ☐ Electric cooktop 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

Bathroom

- ☐ Wall support and option for adjustable and/or varied height counters with removable base cabinets if necessary
- ☐ Contrasting color edge border at countertops
- ☐ At least one wheelchair maneuverable bath on main level with 60" turning radius or acceptable T-turn space and 36" x 36" or 30" x 48" 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" wide
- ☐ Bathtub - lower for easier access
- ☐ Fold down seat in the shower
- ☐ adjustable/handheld showerheads, 6' hose
- ☐ tub/shower controls offset from center
- ☐ Shower stall with built-in antibacterial protection
- ☐ Light in the shower stall
- ☐ Toilet 2 ½" than typical toilets
- ☐ Design of the toilet paper holder allows rolls to be changed with one hand
- ☐ Wall-hung sink with clear knee space below and a panel to protect users from pipes
- ☐ Slip-resistant flooring in bathroom and shower





Miscellaneous

- ☐ 30" x 48" clear space at front of appliances or a 60" diameter clear circle 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
- ☐ 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

Stairways, Lifts, and Elevators

- ☐ Adequate handrails on both sides of stairway, one and a quarter 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 (i.e., stacked closets) for future elevator, or stairway width must be minimum of four feet to allow space for lift
- ☐ Residential elevator or lift

Ramps

- ☐ Slope no greater than one inch rise for each 12" in length, adequate handrails
- ☐ 5' landing provided at entrance
- ☐ 2" curbs for safety

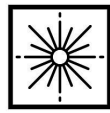
Storage

- ☐ Adjustable closet rods and shelves
- ☐ Lightning in closets
- ☐ Easy open doors that do not obstruct access

Electrical, Lighting, Safety and Security

- ☐ Light switches by each entrance to halls and rooms
- ☐ Light receptacles with at least 2 bulbs in vital places (exits, bathrooms)
- ☐ Light switches, thermostats, and other environmental controls placed in accessible locations no higher than 48" from floor
- ☐ Electrical outlets 15" on center from floor; may need to be closer than 12' apart
- ☐ 30" x 48" clear space in front of light switches and controls





- ☐ Rocker or touch light
- ☐ Audible and visual strobe light system to indicate when the doorbell, telephone or 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

Flooring

- ☐ Smooth, non-glare, slip-resistant surfaces, interior and exterior
- ☐ If carpeted, use low (less than a half inch high pile) density, with firm pad
- ☐ color/texture contrast to indicate change in surface levels

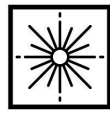
Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning

- ☐ 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

- ☐ In-line framing with 2x6 studs spaced 24" o.c. (on center)
- ☐ Air-barrier installation and sealing of ductwork 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





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Reduced Maintenance/Convenience Features

- ☐ Easy to clean surfaces
- ☐ Central vacuum
- ☐ Built-in pet feeding system
- ☐ Built-in recycling system
- ☐ Video phones
- ☐ Intercom system

Other Ideas

- ☐ Separate apartment for rental income or future caregiver
- ☐ Flex room that can be used as a nursery or playroom when your grandchildren come over

