

Make your home
more liveable with

Universal Design



What's so good about Universal Design?

- You can embed Universal Design in a new home or adapt your existing home for practically nothing! May save you the hassle and cost of moving.
- Your home will be more liveable. You'll find it easier to move around, access the shower and get from the front door to the street.
- Your home will appeal to a wider market. In 2016, 32% of City of Melville locals were aged 55 or older. This figure's increasing rapidly. Homes that don't cater to this demographic are missing out. And don't forget that well designed homes appeal to all other buyers too!
- Your home will be easier and cheaper to adapt in the future.
- Your home will meet your needs throughout your life.



How to include Universal Design in your home

Are you thinking of adapting, or renovating your home, or building a new one?

- Make a list of the places/things in your home that are uncomfortable for you to use. Maybe it's the shower. Or your sliding door's too heavy. Perhaps the kitchen taps are getting hard to turn on. **See the back of this brochure for links to home audit tools that are useful when looking at each room.**
- Hand this brochure to your builder or designer and ask for the Universal Design features overleaf to be included in your home. The more you include, the merrier!
- Consider involving an occupational therapist who knows about Universal Design in the planning of your home.
- Find a builder that already has Universal Design in their products.





Talking to your builder about Universal Design



Be polite but firm about having these ideas included.



If you need to, bring someone you trust to the meeting with your builder.



Shop around if the builder doesn't seem interested.

The Independent Living Centre and My Aged Care may be able to help you stay in your home longer,

See the back of this brochure for links to useful resources.

Your home and Universal Design

Imagine a home designed so well that it meets your needs at every stage of your life.

You've built a place where there are no steps out front, so you can push a pram from the footpath straight through the front door. Later in life, should you find it hard to walk around at any stage, this upfront thinking about steps saves you a lot of trouble. You don't have to move house if you don't want to.

Your place also has wide doorways and corridors. When you're young these features are useful enough on their own. When you're older they make it possible to bring wheelchairs and other equipment right into your home. The upfront planning saves you lots of trouble, lots of money, and, once again, saves you from the need to move out.

These tiny, inexpensive design ideas are examples of Universal Design.

Turn over for more!

Further Information

City of Melville

www.melvillecity.com.au or 9364 0666

Western Australia

Occupational Therapy Association

www.waota.com.au or 9388 1490

Independent Living Centre

www.ilc.com.au or 1300 885 886

Home Care Packages from My Aged Care

www.myagedcare.gov.au or 1800 200 422

Stay on Your Feet Home Safety Checklist (home audit tool)

www.stayonyourfeet.com.au or call 1300 303 540

Technical Specifications

www.liveablehome.net.au



7 Basic Universal Design Features

Show these seven features to your builder or designer. Ask that they all be included.



- 1** A safe, continuous and step-free path of travel from the street and/or parking area to your home's entrance.
- 2** At least one level, step-free entrance into your home.
- 3** Internal doors and corridors wide enough for easy movement around your home.

- 4** A toilet on the ground (or entry) level that's easy to access.
- 5** A bathroom with a step-free (hobless) shower.
- 6** Walls around the toilet, shower and bath that are strong enough to support grab rails.
- 7** A continuous handrail on at least one side of any stairway.

Note these are simple, low-cost ideas. But what a difference they'll make!

Other Universal Design Features

The more of these, **the better!**

- 8** An easily adaptable kitchen with lots of room in front of benches and appliances.
- 9** A laundry with non-slip floors and lots of room in front of benches and appliances.
- 10** Space on the ground (or entry) level that could be used as a bedroom.
- 11** Light switches and powerpoints at easy to reach heights.
- 12** Easy to use taps and doors.
- 13** Spacious family/living rooms.
- 14** Windows that allow for outdoor views when you're sitting or standing.
- 15** Firm, even, non-slip floors.

Need more detail?

See the back of this brochure for links to technical specifications.

