

# Basic Access in Every New House

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**The Status Quo: Barriers are the Norm—  
Even in New Houses!**



**Steps at all  
entrances**



**Narrow Bathroom  
Doors**

**The Goal: Basic Access in All New Houses  
(except the few unfeasible)**

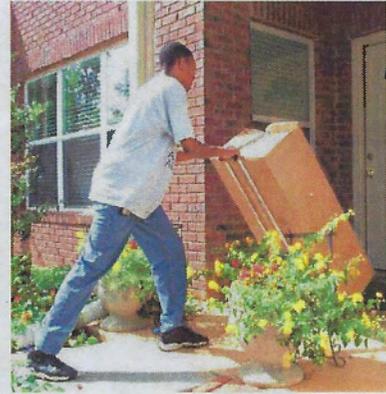


**One ZERO-STEP entrance  
(at the front, side,  
or back depending  
on topography)**



**32 inches  
of clear  
passage space  
through doorways**

## Is it Only About Wheelchair Users?



No. It's about safety at home for all people with long-term or temporary disabilities...And visiting in the homes of others: being at the party...And it's convenient for all.

## Barriers Cause Suffering



Send people to institutions who would rather be at home.



Are a major cause of falls.



Shut out disabled visitors.

## Has Widespread Access Already Proved Practical?

Yes. Local Policies across the country have led to tens of thousands of houses built with basic access *whether or not* a resident currently has a disability.



In high-end houses...



and inexpensive houses



On flat lots...



and steep lots.



Detached houses...



and town houses.

In spite of successes, the vast majority of new houses continue to be built with barriers.

### Low Financial Costs of Basic Access in New Construction

- Wide interior doors and a zero-step entrance, built on concrete slab: \$100 or less.
- Wide interior doors and a zero-step entrance, built over a basement: \$600-800

(Contact Concrete Change for costs statements by experienced builders)

### High Financial Costs of Continuing to Build Barriers

- Typical costs of adding a zero-step entrance and widening doors on an existing house: \$10,000 or more.
- Typical cost of one year in nursing home: \$36,000, double occupancy.
- High medical costs of people who have developed mobility problems but lack resources to modify their unsafe houses: falls on entry steps, health consequences from lack of access to one's own bathroom, injuries to caregivers lifting family members, etc.

More than half of houses built today will have a resident with a severe mobility impairment during the lifetime of the house. More than 90% of these houses will have a visitor with a severe mobility impairment.

*It is not possible to predict which houses.*

For more information, and to help create policies and practices that change the status quo, contact:

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