



# Entrances and Exits

## OVERVIEW

Entry routes are the paths to the home. While a single step or stairs are common at entryways, providing a step-free way into a home means that everyone can come and go easily, safely and without limitation.



"INTER ACTIVE LIVING" ARCHITECT: TIMOTHY GARGIULO

## UNIVERSAL DESIGN FOR ENTRANCES AND EXITS

The Toolkit shows entry routes that use grading rebuilt to the level of the first floor. Proper grading avoids the traditional use of ramps, which are not visually pleasing and can also be easily removed reducing ease of access.

Decks at first floor level also prevent water infiltration and protect kids, adults and the elderly when entering and exiting the home during inclement weather.

As with other parts of the home, doors must be wide enough for easy passage. Lower thresholds help reduce tripping while hardware should be easy for everyone to operate, i.e. levers vs. knobs and the type of locking device.

# Home Today, Home Tomorrow Universal Design Toolkit For Home Owners



## About the toolkit

### DESIGN CHALLENGE

The features included in this Toolkit were selected from submissions to the **Home Today, Home Tomorrow Design Challenge competition** (watch the videos below for more on the competition and the winning design). The judges of the competition selected features that they felt were interesting and innovative and that could provide inspiration for designers, architects and homeowners. The Toolkit is not all inclusive of every universal design feature or practice, but rather those interesting features submitted as part of the competition. Also, many of the features have corresponding cost and difficulty assignments as well as how-to tips. These are intended to provide general direction; further exploration and execution will be necessary.

### GOALS FOR THE TOOLKIT

Every American should have access to affordable, livable, and healthy housing. Make Universal Design a reality for more Americans. Seed ideas that are scalable and help organizations, real estate practitioners, and low- and moderate-income households recognize that universal design can be a reality for them.

### REPLICABILITY

While we don't expect everyone to renovate their entire home using universal design, we know that many of the features included can be adapted to many different renovation projects. Individual households may be interested in the graded yard, the step free route to the deck, an outdoor deck that is the same level as the first

floor, the entrance weather protection, door hardware, interior doors, short, wide hallways, convenient laundry, curbless shower, spacious bathroom, kitchen conveniences, and more. Pick the part of the house that you want to work on and look at what we've done for inspiration.

## Universal Design Principles

### Principle 1: Equitable Use

The design is useful and marketable to people with diverse abilities.

### Principle 2: Flexibility in Use

The design accommodates a wide range of individual preferences and abilities.

### Principle 3: Simple and Intuitive

Use of the design is easy to understand, regardless of the user's experience, knowledge, language skills, or current concentration level.

### Principle 4: Perceptible Information

The design communicates necessary information effectively to the user, regardless of ambient conditions or the user's sensory abilities.

### Principle 5: Tolerance for Error

The design minimizes hazards and the adverse consequences of accidental or unintended actions.

### Principle 6: Low Physical Effort

The design can be used efficiently and comfortably and with a minimum of fatigue

### Principle 7: Size and Space for Approach and Use

Appropriate size and space is provided for approach, reach, manipulation, and use regardless of user's body size, posture, or mobility.