Slide 1: Home accessibility basics

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Slide 2: What we’re talking about today

Introduction

Accessibility basics

Resources

Slide 3: Maximum Accessible Housing of Ohio

We advance accessibility, independence, and inclusion in homes and communities.

Over 35 years of developing and operating fully accessible housing for people with mobility disabilities

Vistas Apartment Communities

Anderson Center for Accessible Living

Slide 4: Accessibility through home modification

Improvement or repair to the environment in order to:

More easily perform tasks

Reduce accidents

Increase independence

More than just grab bars and ramps

Eliminate barriers as appropriate

Provide adequate space

Seek simple solutions

Consider user need, frequency of use, and importance

Slide 5: Home assessments

Identify and prioritize necessary modifications

Evaluate a home for accessibility

Evaluate person’s ability to perform tasks in the home environment

Can be done formally or informally

Tools to facilitate conversations and decisions

Remember that you are the expert on what you need

Slide 6: Guiding principles

32-inch minimum door clearance, but 36 inches is better

36-inch wide travel path, but 42 inches is better

5 foot turning space, but 6 feet is better

28- to 38-inch finished countertop height

18- to 48-inch reach range

1 to 12 maximum slope

Slide 7: No-step entry

Slope not to exceed 1 inch of rise to 12 inches of length

Level landings with at least 3 feet turning space

Ramp easiest, cheapest, to install

Lift most expensive

Slide 8: Steps and stairs

Handrails on both sides

Contrasting colors

Handrails

Riser

Tread

Nonskid material on stair treads

Adequate lighting

Slide 9: Entryway

Sufficient room to maneuver

Covered by door

Bench, table, or parcel shelf

Lower mailbox

Adequate lighting

Slide 10: Entry security

Windows on or by exterior doors

Additional peephole at lower height

Audio intercom

Video intercom

Knox box

Slide 11: Entry door handle

Lever handle

Deadbolt lockset that you can easily use

Key

Number keypad

Card or fob

Fingerprint

Slide 12: Lighting basics

Multiple light sources

Task lighting

Minimal glare from flooring

Keep flashlights handy

Slide 13: Task lighting

Mounted under your upper kitchen cabinets

Installed by a pro and hard-wired

Plugged in and turned on by a switch

Tap-on or motion sensor light strips

Slide 14: Lighting dark spaces

Add or increase lighting at stairs, closets, and hallways

Nightlights

Motion sensor lights

Tap-on puck lights

Integrated switch and outlet covers

Slide 15: Switches

Cover plates in contrasting color

Switches at 33” to 44” above floor

Paddle switches

Sliding dimmer switches

Slide 16: Outlets

Cover plates in contrasting color

Outlets at least 18” above floor

Securely mount a power strip higher on a wall or under a cabinet

Slide 17: Thermostats and controls

Mount no more than 48” from floor

Audible alerts

Talking

Usable controls

Programmable

Slide 18: Flooring

Smooth, low-maintenance materials

Hardwood

Vinyl composite tile

Low pile carpet

Rubber thresholds no more than 0.25 inches high and beveled

Slide 19: Doors

Minimum 32-inch clearance

Swing-away hinges add two inches of space

Kickplate

Lever door handle with return

Alternatives: barn door, pocket door, curtain

Slide 20: Kitchen basics

Wide travel path around islands and tables

Open space under sink

Multi-height work surfaces

Contrasting colors

Round countertop edges

Slide 21: Cabinetry

D-shaped handles

Soft-close hinges

Pull-out shelves, baskets, trash cans

Tap-on or motion sensor lights inside

Open shelving

Slide 22: Range

Front controls

Easy to use dials, buttons, screen

Adhere bump dots

Open counterspace next to range

Fire extinguisher nearby

Slide 23: Faucet

Single lever faucet

Temperature indicators

Tap-on or motion sensor

Slide 24: Bathroom basics

Door opening out

At least 5’ turning space

No rugs

Can use non-skid coating on floor and bathtub

Slide 25: Grab bar styles

Length and diameter

Color contrast

Angled and corner-mount

Grip

Tub-mounted

Toilet safety rails

Toilet paper holders

Slide 26: Grab bar rules

Mount on studs or 0.75 inch plywood backing

Moen product “Secure Mount Anchors” does not require backing

Place grab bars where you need them

Only grab bars are grab bars

Slide 27: Shower

As small as 3 feet by 3 feet

Roll-in showers most universal

Add lighting in the shower stall

Clear shower curtain

Handheld showerhead

Slide 28: Toilet

Comfort height of 17 to 19 inches

Adaptive seat

Toilet night light

Bidet

Pivoting toilet paper holder

Slide 29: Shopping considerations

Read product reviews on Amazon, Consumer Reports, Wirecutter

Traditional retail

Limited options in terms of product and cost

Easy to get, easy to return

Drug Mart, medical suppliers, hardware stores

Online shopping

Allows cost comparison, often have install/use videos

May take longer to get, harder to return

Amazon, medical suppliers, hardware stores

Slide 30: And what about renters?

Request “reasonable modification”

Physical changes to an existing structure to allow a person full enjoyment of premises

Interior of own unit or common areas

Modification must be related to disability

Landlord can require proof of disability

Can require tenant to return unit to original condition

At tenant’s own expense

Slide 31: Government resources

Cuyahoga County Housing Enhancement Loan Program (HELP): 216-443-2149

City of Cleveland Senior Housing Assistance Program (SHAP): 216-664-2833

Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging: 800-626-7277

Community Development Corporations: <http://www.clevelandnp.org/cleveland-cdcs/>

Slide 32: Community resources

Cleveland Restoration Society: 216-426-3116

Also provides free technical assistance

Hebrew Free Loan Association: 216-378-9042

Independent Living Centers

Services for Independent Living: 216-731-1529

Linking Employment, Abilities, and Potential: 216-696-2716

2-1-1 for information and referral

Cleveland Sight Center: 216-791-8118

Cleveland Hearing and Speech Center: 216-231-8787

Legal Aid Society Tenant information line: 216-861-5955

Home Repair Resource Center: 216-381-6100

Habitat for Humanity’s ReStores

MAHO is here for you!

Contact us for info, advice, ideas…

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