

## Housing

### Home Remodeling

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Home Modification and Repair includes adaptations to homes that can make it easier and safer to carry out activities such as bathing, cooking, and climbing stairs and alterations to the physical structure of the home to improve its overall safety and condition.

#### **Why Is Home Modification And Repair Important?**

Home modification and repair can help prevent accidents such as falls. Research suggests that one-third to one-half of home accidents can be prevented by modification and repair.

Home modification and repair can allow people to remain in their homes. Older people tend to live in older homes that often need repairs and modifications. Over 60% of older persons live in homes more than 20 years old. Home modification and repair can accommodate lifestyle changes and increase comfort.

#### **Typical Problems:**

- Difficulty getting in and out of the shower
- Slipping in the tub or shower
- Difficulty turning faucet handles/doorknobs
- Access to home
- Inadequate heating or ventilation
- Problems climbing stairs

#### **Possible Solutions:**

- Install grab bars, shower seals or transfer benches
- Place non-skid strips or decals in the tub or shower
- Replace with lever handles
- Install ramps
- Install insulation, storm windows and air conditioning
- Install handrails for support

## Housing

### Assistive Technology

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Assistive Technology is any device or service used to improve or maintain the mobility of an individual with disabilities. It has been a part of medical services since the first wheel chair rolled down the ramp. Services also play an important role in selecting, designing, and customizing the aiding devices to those it serves. Some mobile devices include walkers, wheel chairs, and

mopeds while stationary technology can include elevators, stairway chair lifts, and vehicle lifts. Here are some helpful links that will assist you in finding the best assistive technology to meet your needs.

### **Assistive Techonology Resources: (Off Site Links):**

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- The University of Delaware's Assistive Technology Initiative website covers some areas which deal with planning and buying considerations. These principles will help you make a more informed decision about what equipment is best suited for your customer.

<http://www.asel.udel.edu/dati/selecting.html> (Off Site)

- Vendors with helpful websites are hard to find, but here are some alphabetical listings for you from the Alliance for Technology Access Network.

<http://www.ataccess.org/community/vendors.lasso> (Off Site)

- If lifting equipment is what you're looking for, then here's the answer to your problems. This website provided by Accessibility Equipment Manufacturers Association will help you reach that height you've been wanting.

[http://www.aema.com/accessibility\\_equipment.html](http://www.aema.com/accessibility_equipment.html) (Off Site)

- The Alliance for Technology Access has put together a great web page that lists community centers by state. What better resource could you ask for when trying to find assistance for your equipment?

<http://www.ataccess.org/resources/default.html> (Off Site)

- The University of Connecticut has put together a very informative website about Assistive Technology and answers many of the questions consumers have about

<http://www.techact.uconn.edu/guide.html> (Off Site)

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