

## Visitability/Universal Design Standards

*Visitability/Universal Design Standards ensure that new homes are designed to be lived in or visited by people with disabilities or mobility impairments.*

### Visitable route

- Ramps should have a maximum running slope of 1:12, a landing length of 60” should be provided every 30’ of ramp length.
- The clear width of a ramp run shall be a minimum of 36”.
- Using the natural topology, the no-step entrance must maintain a slope of 1:12.
- The accessible entrance does not have to be located at the closest point to the user’s approach. The user can travel a bit farther to approach the beginning point of the entrance.
- Landings in a visitable route should be 3’-0” by 5’-0” without a direction change, and 5’-0” by 5’-0” with a direction change.

### Entry

- There shall be at least one no-step entrance.
- The building entrance door, including outward-opening doors, should be 3-0” wide.
- The no-step entrance should have a minimum 5’-0” by 5’-0” clear landing to maneuver around and enter the door.

### Doors/hallways/openings

- Hallways should be 3’-5” wide from frame to frame. (Note: If there is a door in the hallway, the minimum width increases to 3’-7” wide from frame to frame.)
- Operating devices on the entrance door — such as a handle, pull, latch or lock — should be shaped so that they are easy to grasp with one hand and do not require tight grasping, pinching or twisting of the wrist to operate.

### Electrical

- All wall switches controlling light fixtures, fans and thermostats should be mounted at least 48” above the finished floor.
- All electrical outlets and receptacles should be located at least 18” above the finished floor.

### Kitchen

- All kitchens should have a clear floor space of at least 60” in diameter, except kitchens with a parallel layout and no walls on either end which require a clear floor space of 4’-0” in width.



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## Bathroom

- A house should have at least one bathroom on the same level as the no-step entrance.
- The wheelchair turning space must be 60” in diameter.
- A bathroom should meet the minimum clearance areas for all plumbing fixtures.
- The minimum clearance areas for all plumbing fixtures may overlap each other, the wheelchair and the door turning clearance areas.
- Bathroom doors should not swing into the clear floor space or clearance for any fixtures except where a clear floor has a minimum area of 30” by 48” provided within the room beyond the arc of the door swing.

*Habitat for Humanity’s “Visitability Standards” and “Accessible Housing Manual” are available on BuildBrand at <http://build-brand.habitat.org> or by calling the U.S. Support Center at (877) 434-4435. You may also obtain copies of these resources by contacting HFHI’s Construction and Environmental Resources department at [ConsEnv@habitat.org](mailto:ConsEnv@habitat.org).*



Note: For the purpose of Self -help Homeownership Opportunity Program (SHOP) grants, HUD considers the first three sets of features (visitable route, entry, doors/hallways/openings) to meet minimum visitability standards which allow non-household members (i.e., visitors) who use assistive mobility devices to enter the home. Universal Design Features exceed minimum visitability standards and include all of the listed features (visitable route, entry, doors/hallways/openings, electrical, kitchen and bathroom). Visitable and Universal Design features are used regardless of whether a household member currently uses assistive mobility devices.

