What is Universal Design?

Universal Design means creating homes that work for more people from the start.

- ✓ Clear layouts
- ✓ Comfortable lighting
- ✓ Quiet spaces & sensory choices

Yes, ramps and wide doors matter. So do easy-to-use features and **information I can see, hear, or feel.**

My home should help me live well once I am there.

Universal Design asks more than:

"Can I get through the door?"

It also asks:

- Can I feel safe and calm?
- Can I understand and move through the space?
- Can I get important alerts?
- Can I rest and have privacy?
- Can I keep my routines?
- Can I invite people over?
- Can I get support without losing control?

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A Home for Everyone

A Quick Guide to Universal Design

My home should work for my body, brain, senses, routines, and support needs.

Universal Design is for Everyone.

Can I feel safe and calm?

Can I understand and move through the space? Can I get important alerts? Can I rest and have privacy?

Independence is not just getting inside. It is feeling at home once I am there.

Can I keep my routines?

Can I invite people over?
Can I get support without losing control?

Universal Design asks more than "Can I get through the door?"

More choice and control

Safer communication and navigation. Stronger connections. A home that actually feels like home.

Not a unit. Not a placement. My home.

Easy to enter & understand.

🚪 No-step entry

No stairs at the main door

Better for wheels, walkers, strollers, tired bodies, and carrying too many grocery bags.

Wide, clear pathways

Room to move safely and find my way without obstacles.

✋ Easy on the senses

Adjustable lighting

Natural light, dimmers, and fewer harsh overhead lights help me feel comfortable.

Less noise

Quieter appliances, soft surfaces, and better sound control.

Visual & vibrating alerts

Doorbells, smoke alarms, and emergency alerts use light, sound, or vibration.

🍳 Easy to use & make my own

Easy-to-find features

Lever handles, rocker switches, strong color contrast, tactile markings, and controls I can find by sight or touch.

Safer bathrooms

Walk-in showers, grab bars, non-slip floors, clear contrast, and enough room to move.

Real privacy

A personal space with a lock and control over who comes in.

🚿 Space for real life

Room for routines

Hobbies, comfort items, visitors, communication tools, and support.

My home should fit my life

Not force me into someone else's setup.

Sensory choice

Sometimes I need calm.
Sometimes I need movement.
Good design gives me options.