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FEATURED BELOW:

This home is located at 3601 Taberna Drive and will be open from 2-4 p.m. tomorrow for viewing.



homefront

Residential Real Estate Trends and Tips

Making a home handicap accessible

According to the 2008 American Community Survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, an estimated 12.1 percent of non-institutionalized people, male or female; all ages, all races, regardless of ethnicity, with all education levels in the United States, reported a disability. That percentage equates to roughly 36 million people who reported a disability in 2008.



METRO IMAGE

While what qualifies as a disability may be open for debate, it's safe to assume many households across the country and around the globe must alter their homes to accommodate a handicapped resident. Homeowners who do just that should address a number of areas throughout their home to ensure a disabled or handicapped resident can get around safely and soundly.

Doorways

Doorways throughout the home should be widened to allow for wheelchair and walker access. The standard wheelchair is between 24 and 27 inches wide, but contractors recommend making doorways at least 32 inches wide to allow for more room and maneuverability.

The existing door unit will likely need to be removed and the framed opening will need to be widened. While this isn't necessary for every doorway in the home, it should be done at all entry ways, bathrooms and the disabled person's bedroom.

Bathtub

Transferring from a wheelchair to a bathtub can prove very difficult. At the very least, bathtub and shower grab bars will need to be installed. Disabled persons often find it difficult to lift themselves out of a bathtub. Tub transfer seats allow disabled persons to sit in the tub or shower while bathing without having to lower themselves into the tub or lift themselves out afterward.

Toilets

The toilet will also need to be altered or replaced to accommodate a disabled resident. Toilet seat heights will vary depending on the individual, but raised seats can be installed to avoid replacing a toilet entirely.

Homeowners should also install grab bars near the toilet to make it easier for disabled persons to sit down, stand up and transfer to and from their wheelchairs.

Sinks

Disabled persons in wheelchairs often find it difficult to reach faucets on sinks that have vanity cabinets below the sink. Pedestal sinks increase maneuverability but also tend to be a little higher. When installing pedestal sinks or hiring a contractor to do so, order lower sinks to make it easier for disabled persons to reach the faucets.

Closets

Standard closets also tend to be less accommodating to disabled persons. For instance, walk-in closet doorways are typically 24 inches wide. Widen doors to the same width (ideally 32 inches) as doors in the rest of the home.

When working on the closets, lower shelves and rods to make it easier for disabled persons to reach their clothing. In addition, be sure the light switch is as accessible as possible.

In homes with disabled persons, it's up to the homeowner to make the home accessible. Concerned homeowners should consult a contractor if the job seems too tall an order.

— Metro Creative Editorial Services

Taberna

... a smart choice for today's lifestyle



PHOTOS BY RHETT BUTLER/THE DAILY REFLECTOR

If space is a concern of yours, make a smart decision. This functional and versatile home is an excellent value. One you can easily feel at home with just under 2,700 square feet. It still has that "like-new" look and feel.

This home is designed to meet today's demands. A cook's kitchen boasts stainless steel appliances, lots of cabinets and a pantry. The living room features cathedral ceilings, gas logs and built-in cabinets. The first floor has three bedrooms and two baths and a laundry room.

There is a spacious bonus room upstairs plus a bedroom and a full bath — perfect for today's lifestyle and a great solution for privacy for your independent teenager, college student, guests or for your in-laws. A huge floored walk-in attic affords plenty of storage or space to add another room.

Priced at just \$264,900, this home is presented to you by Susan Parker with Prudential Prime Properties. We're putting out the welcome mat. While visiting our open house, Sunday from 2-4 p.m., ask about the bonus offered with an acceptable offer.



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