

# VisitAble Housing Canada

An initiative of the Canadian Centre on Disability Studies

## Concept

“VisitAble Housing” or “VisitAbility” is the concept of designing and building homes with basic accessibility. VisitAble homes provide easy access on the main level for all residents and visitors of all ages and mobility needs.



## Features

VisitAble homes have three basic accessibility features:

- No-step entrance (at the front, back or side of the house).
- Wider doorways and clear passage on the main floor.
- A main floor bathroom (or powder room) that can be accessed by visitors who use mobility devices.

VisitAbility does not mean fully accessible or universal design. It does not apply to the upper floors or basement.

## Benefits

- Easy access to the house and convenience within the house.
- Reduced risks of fall or injuries at home.
- Convenience for people with mobility issues, those with young children in strollers, those carrying large or heavy items.
- Reduced costs for home renovations when mobility changes occur.



photo credit: Ventura Custom Homes Ltd., Aleli Estrada

## Related Facts

- Most houses are built with barriers which cause inconvenience or limit access for homebuyers and visitors.
- In Canada, adults 65 or older will likely account for over 20% of the population by 2026.
- Over 50% of falls that older adults suffer occur in their own home.
- Older adults are more likely to age in their homes, rather than institutional settings if they have basic accessibility features.



## Costs

- When VisitAbility features are planned at the outset, additional costs are minimal.
- Factors that affect the cost of building a VisitAble home are:
  - Topography – land development for no-step entrance
  - Variations in prices between home builders
  - Local market conditions

More facts and figures  
are available at:  
[VisitAbleHousingCanada.com](http://VisitAbleHousingCanada.com)

## Testimonials

*"Everyone knows somebody who's got a disability, wouldn't it be nice if we can include them in their homes?"*

- Land developer

*We've had 100% positive response from the visitable housing aspect of things. Like I said mothers love it with kids, especially young kids... When they're walking with the kids or coming in with the stroller they don't have to lift it up the stairs..."*

- Home Sales Person

*"Given the fact that we have an aging population, this concept will become more front-of-mind for more and more buyers"*

- Home Sales Person

*"We wanted a house that we could stay in as we age. Building a house with VisitAble features just made a lot more sense."*

- VisitAble Home Owner

## Show Your Support!!!

Show your support for VisitAble Housing through our online campaign at:  
[VisitAbleHousingCanada.com](http://VisitAbleHousingCanada.com)



Like us on Facebook:  
[facebook.com/visitablehousingcanada](https://facebook.com/visitablehousingcanada)

Supported by the Government of Canada's Social Development Partnerships Program – Disability Component

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:  
CANADIAN CENTRE ON DISABILITY STUDIES**

56 THE PROMENADE  
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA  
R3B 3H9

PHONE: (204) 287-8411

FAX: (204) 284-5343

[VISITABILITY@DISABILITYSTUDIES.CA](mailto:VISITABILITY@DISABILITYSTUDIES.CA)



VisitAble  
Housing  
CANADA



Zero-step entrance into the home



photo credit:  
Government of Manitoba

Wider doors and passage-ways on the main floor

Bathroom on the main floor that can be accessed by visitors who use mobility devices



photo credit:  
Ventura Custom Homes Ltd.,  
Aleli Estrada



photo credit:  
Government of Manitoba

Family, Friends, Forever  
Your Lifelong Home

[VisitAbleHousingCanada.com](http://VisitAbleHousingCanada.com)