



## WHAT IS UNIVERSAL DESIGN?

*“The intent of Universal Design is to simplify life for everyone by making products, communications, and the built environment more usable by as many people as possible, at little or no extra costs. Universal Design benefits people of all ages and disabilities.”*

—Ron Mace, Design Pioneer and Visionary of Universal Design

Statistics show that you or a family member will undergo a physical transition at some point in your life. Whether it’s a temporary impairment, like a broken bone, or a permanent disability, you or a loved one will be faced with change.

The simple process of aging naturally increases our dependency on others. Universally designed features allow us to move through these changes and still enjoy equal opportunities, self-determination, self-respect, and quality of life.

When building or remodeling, it’s more cost-effective to add many Universal Design features during the planning stage.

There are a number of design features that can be built for little or no cost. Their addition at the beginning saves the need for future retrofits.

## CAN I GET UNIVERSAL DESIGN IN MY NEW HOME?

The City of Dublin requires certain Universal Design features to be installed in all new Single-Family homes. (See the Dublin Municipal Code, Chapter 7.90.)

You may obtain a copy of the City’s checklist of mandatory installations and mandatory offer options from the City’s Building and Safety Division.

## WHAT DO EXAMPLES OF UNIVERSAL DESIGN FEATURES INCLUDE?

- No-step entry
- Wider interior doors and hallways
- Audio and visual doorbell
- At least one bathroom or powder room on the primary entry level
- Hand-held adjustable shower head
- Kitchen on an accessible route of entry.

## WHAT ARE THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES OF UNIVERSAL DESIGN?

As defined by the Center of Universal Design:

- Equitable use
- Flexibility in use
- Simple and intuitive use
- Perceptible information
- Tolerance for error
- Low physical effort
- Size and space approach and use

## WHY SHOULD I CONSIDER UNIVERSAL DESIGN?

**Overall cost:** It is less expensive to add many Universal Design features during construction than after the building is complete.

**Lever handles on doors:** Opening your front door is easier with lever handles when

your hands are full, than with old-fashioned knobs.

**Rocker light switches:** It is easier to turn lights on or off if you are carrying groceries or holding a baby.

**Adjustable closet rods:** Use the rod in the lower position so little ones can reach their own clothes, then raise the rod as they grow.

## RESOURCES

**Housing and Community Development**  
[www.hcd.ca.gov/building-standards/state-housing-law/universal-design.shtml](http://www.hcd.ca.gov/building-standards/state-housing-law/universal-design.shtml)  
916-324-5107

**Dublin Municipal Code, Chapter 7.90**  
[www.codepublishing.com/ca/Dublin/Dublin07/Dublin0790.html#7.90](http://www.codepublishing.com/ca/Dublin/Dublin07/Dublin0790.html#7.90)

**California Building Industry Association**  
[www.cbia.org](http://www.cbia.org)  
916-443-7933

**California Building Standards Code 17922 and 18925**  
[www.bsc.ca.gov](http://www.bsc.ca.gov)

**California Health and Safety Code Section 17959.6, October 2005**  
[leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes.xhtml](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes.xhtml)  
916-263-0916

**AARP**  
[www.aarp.com](http://www.aarp.com)

**Universal Design Alliance**  
[www.universaldesign.org](http://www.universaldesign.org)

**Wikipedia**  
[www.wikipedia.org/wiki/universal\\_design](http://www.wikipedia.org/wiki/universal_design)

**The Center for Universal Design projects.ncsu.edu/ncsu/design/cud**

*Note: The information used in this handout was taken from the web-sites listed.*