



Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation (MHRC) Visitable Housing Design

HOMES DESIGNED WITH
VISITABLE FEATURES
MAKE LIFE SIMPLER FOR
ALL AGES AND ABILITIES.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
ON VISITABILITY,
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Visitable housing is the concept of designing and building homes with a basic level of accessibility. Visitable homes provide independent access for everyone, including people with limited mobility or those with disabilities.

A level entrance provides easier access to the home for all ages and abilities. People who may require the use of mobility aids such as wheelchairs, walkers or scooters, as well as seniors and families with small children, can benefit from visitable homes.

VISITABLE DESIGN FEATURES

A residence incorporating minimum visitable design features would include:

- One level, no-step entrance — minimum 36 inches (91.4 centimetres) wide — on an accessible route
- Wider doorways — minimum of 32 inches (81.3 centimetres) clear passage throughout
- A wheelchair accessible bathroom on the main floor

The MHRC is encouraging the use of visitable design, as shown by several of its recent initiatives. Houses have been built under the Affordable Housing Initiative's Infill Housing Program to include these basic visitable design features. Renovations to MHRC-owned properties are now incorporating basic visitability at a minimum. Future new residential construction, funded with

public contributions, will promote the use of visitable design. The MHRC is promoting quality, affordable housing that includes visitable features and demonstrates that these housing designs can benefit people of all ages, including visitors with mobility restrictions.

Other inexpensive visitable design features may be added to improve the convenience and suitability of a home. These include:

- Reinforced bathroom walls (for the installation of grab bars, if desired)
- Levered door handles and single-lever kitchen and bathroom faucets
- Raised electrical outlets — 18 inches (45.7 centimetres) from the floor
- Lowered climate controls
- Lowered light switches — 48 inches (121.9 centimetres) from the floor

Visitable house designs that include a bedroom and a full bathroom on the main floor provide an attractive housing option for a resident with disabilities.

Homes with visitable features demonstrate the first stage of universal design. Further adaptations to assist with a disability can be easily added to a visitable home, if and when the need arises.

