

COSTS OF BUILDING VISITABLE HOMES



Concept of VisitAble Housing: VisitAble housing is the concept of designing and building homes with basic accessibility features that provide easy access on the main level for everyone.

VisitAbility Features: VisitAble homes have three basic accessibility features on the main floor: 1. A no-step entrance (at the front, back or side of the house), 2. Wider doorways and hallways (minimum 36") on the main floor with a path of accessible travel to the washroom, 3. At least a half bathroom on the main floor that people with mobility devices can use.

Benefits of VisitAbility: Easy access to the house and convenience within the house, reduced risks of fall or injuries at home. resale value, enhanced aging in place potential, welcoming environment for friends and family with mobility issues.

Costs associated with the three basic VisitAble features for new construction:

No-Step Entrance

Costs: Varies widely - with planning, it can be less than \$250.

Dependent Upon:

- Whether the no-step entrance is achieved with a ramp or by lot grading.
- Topography of the lot.
- Building methods and materials.
- Design of features such as drainage pipes, earthwork, and depth of utilities.

Wider Doors and Halls

Costs: \$0-\$25. Approximately \$5 per door.

Dependent Upon:

- The type of house and materials used.
- Number of doors.
- No significant cost to increase the width of the hallway to 42".

Main Floor VisitAble Bathroom

Costs: \$0-500.

Dependent Upon:

- Whether other accessibility features are added, such as grab bars. On average, VisitAble bathrooms don't cost extra in new home builds.

Incorporating VisitAbility features in the design stage of building a new home reduces the cost of modifying a non-VisitAble home to meet changing accessibility needs of residents over the course of their lifespan.

- The cost ranges provided here are general estimates based on various projects and studies in North America and Europe.
- Many professionals such as builders, developers, architects and realtors have different ideas and understanding of the costs of VisitAble home.
- Prices will vary in different municipalities.
- Costs associated with making a house bigger to compensate reduced living space due to larger doorways or bathroom are not included in these estimates.
- For more information, contact a local builder.

For more information, visit:

VisitAbleHousingCanada.com • facebook.com/visitablehousingcanada

Canadian Centre on Disability Studies

56 The Promenade • Winnipeg, MB R3B 3H9
204-287-8411 • visitability@disabilitystudies.ca



VisitAble
Housing
CANADA