

New York AgrAbility Project

Tip Sheet

Promoting Success in Agriculture for People with Disabilities and Their Families

Easy Home Modifications

HERE ARE SOME HELPFUL TIPS AND DEVICES THAT ARE AT LOW COST TO MODIFY YOUR HOME:

- **LEVER HANDLES** can replace round knob fixtures to help with individuals who have arthritis.
- **CLAPPER or REMOTE CONTROL** can be used to turn lights, television or stereo on or off. These devices are helpful for various disabilities.
- Install **AUDIO OR VISUAL ALARM SYSTEMS** for someone who has a hearing or vision loss.
- **TTY COMMUNICATION SYSTEM** is provided by some phone companies to help people who have communication difficulties or hearing loss.
- **REACHER** is handy to retrieve items up high or down on the floor. This is helpful for a person with a bad back, in a wheelchair or with arthritis.
- For **BATHROOM NEEDS**, one can use **PORTABLE COMMODES**, **GRAB BARS** by the toilet or bathtub and **BATHTUB SEATS**. Some of these items you can get on loan at a local **LOAN CLOSET**.
- **FRONT LOADER WASHING MACHINE AND DRYER** would be helpful if someone is in a wheelchair.
- **OUTSWING DOORS** are helpful for wheelchair access.
- Add **EXTRA LIGHT FIXTURES** for people who have vision loss.
- **BRILLE OVERLAYS** for appliances are available from some manufacturers for people who have vision loss.
- Locate an **ALTERNATE EMERGENCY EXIT** that is safe for a person with a disability.
- For individuals who use a wheelchair and would like to be transferred to a couch or chair, it is best if the furniture is the same height as the wheelchair. If new furniture can not be purchased, you can place **BLOCKS OF WOOD** under furniture to give it more height.
- **MANY LOW COST MODIFICATIONS** can be used in your home for access and getting around your house.

A portion of the information shared from: The Center for Universal Design Website and the Easter Seals Website.

For further information please contact the [NY AgrAbility Project](#), Cornell Agricultural Health and Safety Program, 777 Warren Road, Ithaca New York 14850 or by phone 1-877-257-9777. The New York AgrAbility Project can not guarantee the effectiveness of any suggestions, solutions or recommendations. The New York AgrAbility Project is administered by Cornell University through funding provided under the United States Department of Agriculture CSREES project number 2002-41590-01372.

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