



UNIVERSAL ACCESS & LIVEABLE HOMES

SUSTAINABLE HOUSING DESIGN NEEDS TO CONSIDER MORE THAN JUST ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE, IT SHOULD ALSO TACKLE ISSUES SUCH AS SOCIAL INCLUSIVENESS AND DESIGN LIFE.

One way to address this is to incorporate universal access design principles to make homes accessible for people with mobility challenges. This is something that affects all of us, including families with young children, pregnant women, people who have a temporary or permanent injury or disability and seniors.

Josh's House incorporates universal design features such as wide doors and hallway (for pram, walking frame or wheel chair clearance), flush thresholds and hobless showers (to eliminate trip hazards), toilet with clear access, and open plan living on one level with generous circulation space in key areas such as the kitchen and dining room. In addition to making the homes look and feel more spacious, these features ensure that the homes are more accessible for everyone and eliminate the need for major modifications should someone with a permanent disability decide to live there. A checklist of the key universal access principles to consider for your next project include:

Flat level walkway to entrance

- 1000mm minimum width path.
- 1200mm x 1200mm land area to entrance door.

Wide entrance doorway

- Flush entry.
- 820mm door clear width.

Wide internal doorways and hallways

- 820mm door clear width.
- Hallways 1000mm minimum width.

Minimum of one accessible toilet on entry level

- 900mm x 1200mm (clear of swinging door).
- If located in bathroom, toilet to be located in corner to enable installation of grab rails.

Minimum of one accessible shower on entry level

- Hobless.
- Located in corner of room to enable installation of grab rails if required.

Reinforced walls in bathroom and toilet

- Except for walls constructed of solid masonry or concrete, the walls around the shower, bath (if provided) and toilet should be reinforced to provide a fixing surface for the safe installation of grab rails if and when they are required.



MORE INFO

For more information on universal access design, including plans and technical guidelines visit:

www.liveablehomes.net.au