

About the NWUDC



Good task lighting
and clear counter space

The Northwest Universal Design Council comprises volunteer housing and urban planning professionals and advocates who promote the

ability to “live actively by design,” regardless of age or ability, by incorporating Universal Design principles, products, and processes into new or renovated built environments.

We help policy makers, housing developers, housing funders, architects, human service providers, members of the disability community, and the general public recognize, own, and promote good design for all. We illustrate options, offer resources, and empower people.



Wide doorways, step free, landing on the same level as the floor inside the home

The NWUDC meets quarterly in January, April, July, and October, unless otherwise noted. All meetings are open to the public. All interested parties are welcome to attend.

Visit our website at environmentsforall.org and subscribe to our e-mail list to receive notice of upcoming NWUDC meetings.

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Universal Design



Light-sensor
stairway lighting

Universal Design considers all aspects of the built environment—homes, mobility routes, landscapes, commercial developments, products and life space, including equipment and architecture—with the goal of making them accessible to every person, regardless of age or ability.

Benefits for you and for the community:

- **Sustainability**—Anticipate change to avoid expensive renovation, retrofitting, and wasting of building materials.
- **Visitability**—Enjoy the company of all members of the community together.
- **Flexibility**—Reinvent, redefine, and repurpose space as you experience temporary or permanent changes through the lifespan.
- **Marketability**—Appeal to a growing segment of the population.
- **Maneuverability**—Increase perception, movement, and safety by removing obstacles and hazards.



Level and barrier-free public
meeting spaces

Principles of Universal Design

Developed by the Center for Universal Design, North Carolina State University, a national information, technical assistance, and research center.

- **Equitable Use**—The design is useful and marketable to people with diverse abilities.
- **Flexible Use**—The design accommodates a wide range of individual preferences and abilities.
- **Simple and Intuitive Use**—Use of the design is easy to understand, regardless of the user's experience, knowledge, language skills, or current concentration level.
- **Perceptible Information**—The design communicates necessary information effectively to the user, regardless of ambient conditions or the user's sensory abilities.
- **Tolerance for Error**—The design minimizes hazards and the adverse consequences of accidental or unintended actions.
- **Low Physical Effort**—The design can be used efficiently and comfortably and with a minimum of fatigue.
- **Size and Space for Approach and Use**—Appropriate size and space is provided for approach, reach, manipulation, and use regardless of user's body size, posture or mobility.



Single lever faucet and
clear counter space



No raised threshold,
good lighting, and
wide doorways



Plenty of floor space
to maneuver



Clearance under the
sink to allow for a
seated user

Pay special attention to the top three areas that cause the most frequent barriers and inconveniences—your entrance, kitchen, and bathroom.

For Universal Design guidelines, tips, and resources, including a Home Checklist, visit our website.

