



# Unlocking the Magic of Universal Design

## Creating Inclusive Spaces in Your Home

When we think of home, we envision a place of comfort, warmth and togetherness. It's where our stories unfold, where we find solace and where we celebrate life's milestones. It's natural that we want our homes to be welcoming and accommodating to everyone, regardless of their abilities. This is where the concept of universal design steps in, weaving inclusivity into the very fabric of our living spaces.

### What is Universal Design?

Universal design is about creating environments that are accessible and user-friendly for all, regardless of age, mobility, or other factors. It's a design philosophy that brings convenience, comfort, and beauty to every corner of your home. Whether you're a young family with energetic children, an individual with specific accessibility needs, or planning for the future, universal design has something valuable to offer.

### Universal Design Beyond the Bathroom

While universal design is often associated with bathrooms, curbless showers and grab bars, its reach extends much further, enhancing every room within your home. It can be as simple as using contrasting paint colors for improved visibility or as complex as adding integrated technology for voice activation and app controls. Let's take a look at a few key areas:

**Kitchen:** A well-designed kitchen is the heart of any home. Imagine touch and voice activated facets and appliances, varying height workstations and cabinet hardware that's both functional and stylish. Universal design ensures that your kitchen is not just a place to cook but a space that adapts to your needs.

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# Do You Need An “Accessible” Bathroom?

Mobility issues can make even the simplest of tasks a safety issue, and the bathroom can be one of the most dangerous spaces of all. That’s why we are seeing more homeowners remodel their bathrooms with accessibility in mind.

If you have a family member who needs some extra accommodations in the bathroom, or if you are just looking ahead as you would like to age in place, here is some more information on accessibility to help you start planning your remodel.

## What does “accessible” mean?

Having an accessible space in your home means it is designed specifically for people who have mobility issues to allow them to move around the space as safely as possible. Accessible spaces make a home a safer place for all family members, regardless of their abilities, and will allow family members who do have mobility issues to continue to have independence in their daily lives.

When undergoing a remodel, making the choice to widen doorways and use non-slip flooring is just the tip of the iceberg. Let’s look at some features you can include in your bathroom remodel to make the space accessible.



## How to incorporate accessible features into your bathroom

If you’re worried that adding accessibility features will make your bathroom look more like a hospital than a luxurious retreat in your home, don’t be. There are plenty of ways to incorporate safety features in your bathroom without sacrificing style.

If you have someone in your family who relies on a wheelchair, lowering the height of counters and sinks will make life much easier for them to perform daily tasks like washing their hands, brushing their teeth, or drying their hair.



You’ll also want to include a zero-threshold shower with a large doorway to allow them to shower safely. These spaces can be designed to your preference and don’t have to look out of place.

It’s also a good idea to look at how new home technology can help make your bathroom more accessible. Touchless faucets and smart toilets can reduce the germs that are spread in a bathroom. Having remote-controlled lighting is also an easy technological feature that will allow your loved one to enter the space safely without fumbling around in the dark looking for a light switch.

## Why should you consider including accessible features in your bathroom?

It certainly doesn’t hurt to include safety features in your bathroom, so if you’re planning to remodel your bathroom, why not include them?

Not only will these features prevent all members of your family from having a dangerous and embarrassing fall, it may also help the resale value of your home if that is something that is important to you.

If you have more questions about designing a bathroom with accessibility in mind, we are here to help!



# Need a new shower? Skip the Curbs

A curbless shower, also called a zero-threshold shower, is flush with the bathroom floor.

This type of shower is the best option if you're remodeling your shower with accessibility in mind because there are no curbs or steps; you simply walk into the shower without worrying about tripping. This is great for young kids, family members with limited mobility, and if you're planning to age in place.

While a curbless shower makes the bathroom more accessible, there are plenty of other reasons to consider including one in your bathroom remodel. Here are just a few:

## Great for Small Spaces

Whether you're working with a large or a small bathroom, you'll be amazed at how much larger a curbless shower will make your bathroom look. Removing the curb opens allows the eye to see a seamless transition between the bathroom floor and the shower floor which makes the space look larger and more cohesive.

## Easier to Clean

Having a handheld showerhead also makes the shower easier to clean since you have the ability to move the shower head to the spot that needs to be cleaned. Plus, there aren't as many crevices to clean, so it makes the job much easier.



## They Look Great

Curbless showers are becoming the design standard in homes for all of the reasons listed above, but also because they look great. You can choose bathroom tile and hardware that reflects your personal style and contribute to the overall design theme you choose for your bathroom.

All in all, the curbless shower will make your bathroom look modern and refreshed, allowing you to enjoy the space for years to come!

Curbless showers are accessible, on-trend, and lower maintenance than other types of showers. If you'd like to include a curbless shower in your bathroom remodel, we would love to help you.

# Products Designed for Function, Style, Accessibility

If you're one of the many homeowners who is making accessibility a priority in your bathroom design, there are quite a few products you should consider including in your design. Let's take a look at a few of the must-haves:

## Handheld Showerheads

A handheld showerhead is a must for those with limited mobility. They come with long hoses which make them convenient for those who need to remain seated while showering.

The handheld showerhead allows these people to bathe independently while reducing the risk of slips and falls. As if that isn't reason enough, handheld showerheads can help conserve water since they only spray water where they are needed and often come with a shut-off switch.

## Decorative Grab Bars

An accessible bathroom needs to have grab bars around the toilet and also in the shower. These pieces of hardware can be an actual lifesaver!

The good news is, they have come a long way in terms of design and won't leave your bathroom looking like a



hospital room. You should be able to find grab bars that match the rest of the hardware in your bathroom, so they will blend in and complement the rest of the design.

## Lever Handles on Faucets

Another smart modification you can make to your bathroom to make it more accessible is to install lever handles on faucets. These require less grip strength than a turning knob which will be extremely beneficial for someone with arthritis or other issues with hand strength.

For more ideas on how to create an accessible bathroom, contact us!

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Experience. Integrity. Passion.

### Glaze Design/Build

PO Box 2405  
Hickory, NC 28603

264 Union Square, Suite 201  
Hickory, NC 28601



828.324.9255  
glazedesignbuild.com

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**Hallways and Doorways:** Wider doorways and hallways create a sense of openness, but also make navigation a breeze. With well-placed lighting and lever-style door handles, moving through your home becomes a seamless experience.

**Flooring:** Eliminate room and flooring transitions. Universal design smooths out the flow with non-slip, easy-to-maintain flooring that safe for everyone.

**Lighting:** Proper lighting is essential for any home. Strategically placed lighting, easy to reach switches and integrated technology allows homeowners to be in control of the amount of light needed to thrive in any space.

## Incorporating Universal Design in Your Remodel Project

At Glaze Design/Build, we're more than just builders; we're creators of universally designed spaces. From the initial planning to material selection, our experts bring a wealth of knowledge to ensure your remodel project embraces universal design principles. By prioritizing accessibility and preparing for aging in place, we create homes that stand the test of time.

If you are considering embarking on a journey of remodeling consider the profound impact of universal design. Its more than a trend; its a way to make your home a haven for everyone. At Glaze Design/Build, we're not just passionate about construction; we're passionate about creating spaces where families thrive, where every individual feels welcome, and where the magic of universal design is a tangible reality. Reach out to us today, and let's create a space that embraces inclusivity, functionality and style.

