

ACCESSIBLE & ADAPTABLE DWELLINGS

To ensure that your detached secondary suite can adapt to changing household needs and allow for *aging in place*, consider the following design features:

Building Access & Site Circulation

- an accessible path of travel from the main entrance to the street, on-site parking and garbage and recycling areas
- consideration of materials used for pathways—surfaces that can be easily navigated using a mobility aid
- well-lit entrances and pathways
- unobstructed access to the coach house—no stairs
- wide doorways and level thresholds to accommodate a mobility aid
- wiring for future installation of automatic door
- lever door handles
- easy to read building address—high contrast 10-centimetre lettering

Interior Access & Circulation

- wider corridors (minimum 1.2 metres)
- wider door clearances (minimum 0.9 metre)
- sufficient turning radius to accommodate a mobility aid inside main entrance (minimum 1.5 metres)
- sufficient space between bed and closet in the bedroom (minimum 1.2 metres)
- level thresholds onto patio and sufficient turning radius on patio (minimum 1.5 metres)
- lever door handles and faucets

Kitchen

- continuous counter between sink and stove
- adjustable shelves in cabinets
- D or J cabinet handles
- task lighting in work areas
- pull out work boards (0.8-metre height)



Bathroom

- in a two-storey dwelling, include a bathroom on the main level
- minimum wheelchair turning radius of 1.5 metres
- wider door clearances (minimum 0.9 metre)
- solid backing behind tub/shower and next to toilet for future installation of grab bars
- tub control valves offset to outside edge of tub or shower
- removable cabinet under bathroom sink to create space for a person in a mobility aid
- adjustable or handheld shower head

Electrical

- additional three-way switch outlet in bedroom to allow control of lights from bed
- rocker switches
- switches, controls, thermostat no higher than 1.16 metres
- electrical outlets, cable outlets, telephone jacks no lower than 0.46 metre
- provisions for future installation of a visual alarm system in the living room and bedroom

Laundry

- provision of space to allow for side-by-side, front-loading washer and dryer

The sample features noted in this brochure are provided for information only, and are not intended to be a complete list of adaptable or accessible design features. Consult your design professional for more information.

ACCESSIBLE DESIGN

is a design process in which the needs of people with disabilities are specifically considered. The goal of accessible design is to remove architectural barriers for people with a range of disabilities.

ADAPTABLE DESIGN

allows housing to adapt as the occupant's needs change, making it easier for people to 'remain in place' as they age or experience injury or illness. This can mean adapting to meet the needs of a person with a specific disability, or a person progressing through different life stages. Adaptable features can be easily modified to respond to increasing physical disability or limitations in activity.

CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION

westvancouver.ca/coachhouses

TYPE OF INQUIRY	DEPARTMENT
development permit process, servicing requirements & general inquiries	Planning 604-925-7055
building permits (<i>following development permit issuance</i>)	Building 604-925-7040
registration and licensing of rental suites	Bylaw 604-925-7152

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