

# Build a Home For Life™

Invest in your family's future

Edmonton

In partnership with the City of Edmonton, Age Friendly Edmonton and Alberta Health Services, Home for Life™ has emerged as an initiative leading the way for life-long residential home design.

Smart, flexible design is the hallmark of every Home for Life™. Spacious floor plans and built-in safety features mean that whether you live with someone who is three or eighty-three, your home will meet your needs. A Home for Life™ is also a warm and welcoming place for your family and friends to visit regardless of their age or ability.

## Home for Life™ Essentials

The Home for Life™ design guidelines provide homeowners and builders with a framework for designing homes that are aesthetically pleasing and will remain functional and accessible at all ages and stages of life.

The following seven essential features must be incorporated into a home's structure for it to qualify as a Home for Life™:

1. Zero-step entrance
2. Accessible kitchen
3. Accessible three piece bathroom
4. Accessible bedroom or flex room
5. Accessible laundry area
6. Doorways that are 36 inches (0.9 metres) wide
7. Hallways that are 42 inches (1.1 metres) wide

Ideally, all seven Home for Life™ essentials should be included on the main floor, eliminating the need to climb stairs to reach a bedroom, bathroom, or laundry area. If the bedroom, bathroom or laundry are not on the main level, a stackable closet (for elevators) or straight stairs (for a stair lift) is required.

## How to Use the Guidelines

Homeowners are encouraged to use the guidelines to begin a discussion with their builder about incorporating these features. Those planning renovations to their home can also consider the guidelines when choosing, and talking with, renovation contractors. Others may find the guidelines helpful when making decisions around the best place to live for their stage of life.

Details on how to build a home with the seven essential Home for Life™ features, including the necessary technical specifications required by builders and renovators, are available at [homeforlife.ca](http://homeforlife.ca).

All developments must meet the requirements of Edmonton's Zoning Bylaw, which contains the rules and regulations for the development of land. The Zoning Bylaw includes a section on Inclusive Design that follows many of the Home for Life guidelines. If Inclusive Design standards are followed alongside Supportive Community Provisions, you may benefit from an increased density allowance and reduced parking requirements. You can find more information about the Zoning Bylaw at [edmonton.ca/zoningbylaw](http://edmonton.ca/zoningbylaw)

## The Home for Life™ Builder's Rule

**0 – 36 – 42 – 60**

0 steps and thresholds (including in the shower)  
36-inch (0.9 metre) wide doorways  
42-inch (1.1 metre) wide hallways  
60-inch (1.5 metre) diameter turning circles in the kitchen, bathroom, bedroom, and laundry area.

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## About Home for Life™

Ensuring there are housing choices to meet the needs of everyone is an important part of building our city. Diversity of housing choices is a core feature of healthy, resilient and complete communities that attract new residents and encourage existing residents to stay.

Home for Life™ is an initiative of the Housing subcommittee of Age Friendly Edmonton. The committee was formed in response to the 2009 "Blueprint for the Next Housing Boom: The Mayor's Roundtable for Accessible Housing and Universal Design for Seniors." It is comprised of stakeholders from Edmonton-based senior-serving agencies, disability organizations, builders, designers, realtors, customers, the City of Edmonton, Alberta Health Services and the University of Alberta. Home for Life™ is trademarked by the University of Alberta.

The goals of the Home for Life™ initiative are to:

- 1) increase the number and variety of accessible housing options for all;
- 2) to make customers aware of those options.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

### Home for Life™ Contacts

#### Michael Brown

Principal Planner  
Housing & Homelessness  
City of Edmonton

Phone: 780-496-5821  
Email: michael.brown@edmonton.ca  
Website: homeforlife.ca

#### Diana O'Donoghue

Accessibility Liaison  
Age Friendly Edmonton

Phone: 780-442-7160  
Email: diana.o'donoghue@edmonton.ca  
Website: agefriendlyedmonton.ca

## Facts about Aging and Housing



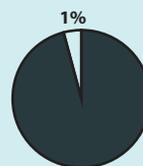
By 2036, approximately 20% of Albertans will be age 65 or older (Statistics Canada, 2015); that means that there will be more than 1 million older adults living in the province (Alberta Continuing Care Association).



More than 80% of adults age 50 and older say they would prefer to stay in their own homes and access care as needed (RBC, 2013).



In 66% of cases where a person moves from their family home, the decision is triggered by a change in health (RBC, 2013).



Home for Life™ features cost 0-1% more when included during construction but considerably more to retrofit. Including Home for Life™ features into more of the housing stock will allow more residents the freedom to live in places of their choice for more of their lifetime.

