

# COSTS OF BUILDING VISITABLE HOMES



**Concept of VisitAble Housing:** VisitAble housing is the concept of designing and building homes with basic accessibility features that provide easy access on the main level for everyone.

**VisitAbility Features:** VisitAble homes have three basic accessibility features on the main floor: 1) A no-step entrance (at the front, back or side of the house), 2) Wider doorways and hallways (minimum 36") on the main floor with a path of accessible travel to the washroom, 3) At least a half bathroom on the main floor that people with mobility devices can use.

**Benefits of VisitAbility:** Easy access to the house and convenience within the house, reduced risks of falls or injuries on stairs, resale value, enhanced aging in place potential, and a welcoming environment for friends and family with mobility issues.

## Costs associated with the three basic VisitAble features for new construction:

### No-Step Entrance

**Costs:** Varies widely - with planning, it can be less than \$250.

**Dependent Upon:**

- Whether the no-step entrance is achieved with a ramp or by lot grading.
- Topography of the lot.
- Building methods and materials.
- Design of features such as drainage pipes, earthwork, and depth of utilities.

### Wider Doors and Halls

**Costs:** \$0-\$25. Approximately \$5 per door.

**Dependent Upon:**

- The type of house and materials used.
- Number of doors.
- No significant cost to increase the width of the hallway.

### Main Floor VisitAble Bathroom

**Costs:** \$0-500.

**Dependent Upon:**

- Whether other accessibility features are added, such as grab bars.
- On average, VisitAble bathrooms don't cost extra in new home builds.

**Incorporating VisitAbility features in the design stage of building a new home reduces the cost of modifying a non-VisitAble home to meet changing accessibility needs of residents over the course of their lifespan.**

- The cost ranges provided here are general estimates based on various projects and studies in North America and Europe.
- Many professionals such as builders, developers, architects and realtors have different ideas and understanding of the costs of VisitAble homes.
- Costs will vary in different regions.
- Costs associated with making a house bigger to compensate reduced living space due to larger doorways or bathroom are not included in these estimates.
- For more information, contact a local builder.

**For more information, visit:**

[VisitAbleHousingCanada.com](http://VisitAbleHousingCanada.com) • [facebook.com/visitablehousingcanada](https://facebook.com/visitablehousingcanada)

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