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5 Guidelines for an Accessibility Bedroom Remodel

Many houses and apartments are not specifically designed to be accessible for people with disabilities. This means that people with disabilities and their families often have to take it upon themselves to remodel certain rooms in their houses and create an [open floor plan](#) that is easier for maneuvering. It's especially important that certain rooms, such as bedrooms, are comfortable and well-suited for their needs.

Whether you or one of your family members has a disability, remodeling a bedroom with accessibility in mind is totally doable — with some careful planning. [Trower Realtors](#) shares a few essential guidelines for designing an accessible bedroom.

Figure Out Financing

Before you dive into the remodeling process, you need to figure out how you will pay for the renovations. Start by thinking about principles of [universal design](#), like simplicity, adequate space, minimizing hazards, and consulting the ADA [design standards](#), and then break down the costs.

There are grants and other funding options for these changes, or you might be able to find help through your family, friends, and community. You could also consider applying for a Federal Housing Administration 203K loan, or using funds from your health savings account to cover necessary medical equipment.

If all else fails, you might want to consider using a loan like a cash out refinancing to fund this project. A refinance enables you to simultaneously refinance your mortgage and borrow money. Right now is a perfect time to do it, too, since interest rates are low and housing prices are high. Getting a check that you can spend on home improvements will help you cover the expense of any bedroom remodeling and other projects, such as adding a ramp for a step-free entryway to the home. You could add a ramp, or if you happen to have a walkout basement, that could be the ideal space, even if it needs a little [sprucing up](#).

Wide Doorways

Not everyone with a disability needs to use a mobility aid, but many do. For example, someone may need to use a wheelchair, walker, cane, or other mobility aid to get around their house, and going through narrow doorways could be a challenge.

That's why an accessible bedroom needs to have wide doorways. 1800Wheelchair states that an adequate doorway could be anywhere from [32 to 48 inches](#) wide. If there is a bathroom connected to the bedroom, that doorway will need to be widened as well.

Flooring

When it comes to [flooring](#), carpet is not a good choice for accessible bedrooms. It presents a hazard for people using mobility aids. A low pile carpet might work, but carpet with thick cushioning can impede motion. Instead, consider going with hardwood floors. If hardwood floors are out of your budget, vinyl tiles or planks are probably your next best option. Textured tile floors might be better than carpet, but overall, hardwood or vinyl floors are less slippery.

Accessible Bed

When you're remodeling a bedroom for accessibility, ICDRI explains that choosing the [right bed](#) is key. There are several factors you will want to consider before making a final purchase. For example, you may need a variable posture bed that can be adjusted for the individual's comfort or an orthopedic mattress. Furthermore, you or your loved one may require additional tools or devices to make sitting up or lying down in bed easier, like a mattress inclinators or a lifting pole.

Safety Tips

Once you've figured out your overall design strategy, you'll want to ensure that you're not forgetting any little details that could make the bedroom inaccessible. For example, don't use throw rugs, because it's easy to stumble over them. Make sure that you can keep any cords and wires tucked away so that no one will trip. And when you choose furniture and end tables, consider items with rounded edges to help guard against injury.

Designing an accessible bedroom can seem like a major challenge. But once you've drawn up a basic plan and figured out your budget, the process is relatively straightforward. With the right features and furniture, you can remodel your bedroom as a more accessible space.