

Principles for Creating Places Using Universal Design

a compilation from both the [National Disability Authority's Centre for Excellence in Universal Design](#), and [The UDL Guidelines](#)

What: Creating places that can be accessed, understood and used to the greatest extent possible by all people regardless of their age, size, ability or disability.

Why: It isn't just about ADA. In simply walking with my grandchildren through a park, I quickly understood that strollers and wheelchairs alike benefit from ramped curb cuts!

Equitable Use

Make it useful and marketable to people with diverse abilities.

GUIDELINES

Provide the same means of use for all users: identical whenever possible, equivalent when not.

Avoid segregating or stigmatizing any users.

Provisions for privacy, security, and safety should be equally available to all users.

Flexibility in Use

It should accommodate a wide range of individual preferences and abilities.

GUIDELINES

Provide choice in methods of use.

Accommodate right- or left-handed access and use.

Facilitate the user's accuracy and precision.

Provide adaptability to the user's pace

Simple and Intuitive Use

Use of the design should be easy to understand, regardless of the user's experience, knowledge, language skills, or current concentration level.

GUIDELINES

Eliminate unnecessary complexity

Be consistent with user expectations and intuition

Accommodate a wide range of literacy and language skills

Arrange information consistent with its importance

Provide effective prompting and feedback during and after task completion

Perceptible Information

Communicate necessary information to the user in an effective manner, regardless of ambient conditions or the user's sensory abilities.

GUIDELINES

- Use** different modes (pictorial, verbal, tactile) for redundant presentation of essential information.
- Provide** adequate contrast between essential information and its surroundings
- Maximize** "legibility" of essential information.
- Differentiate** elements in ways that can be described (i.e., make it easy to give instructions or directions).
- Provide** compatibility with a variety of techniques or devices used by people with sensory limitations.

Tolerance for Error

Minimize hazards and the adverse consequences of accidental or unintended actions.

GUIDELINES

- Arrange** elements to minimize hazards and errors: most used elements, most accessible; hazardous elements eliminated, isolated, or shielded.
- Provide** warnings of hazards and errors
- Provide** fail safe features.
- Discourage** unconscious action in tasks that require vigilance.

Low Physical Effort

Make sure the design can be used efficiently and comfortably and with a minimum of fatigue.

GUIDELINES

- Allow** user to maintain a neutral body position.
- Use** reasonable operating forces.
- Minimize** repetitive actions.
- Minimize** sustained physical effort.

Size & Space for Approach and Use

Be sure that appropriate size and space is provided for approach, reach, manipulation and use, regardless of user's body size, posture or mobility.

GUIDELINES

- Provide** a clear line of sight to important elements for any seated or standing user.
- Make** reach to all components comfortable for any seated or standing user.
- Accommodate** variations in hand and grip size.
- Provide** adequate space for the use of assistive device or personal assistance.