

DESIGN AND REMODELING *trends*

barrier free living

Accessibility is Now Routine in Remodeling

This past summer, new building code changes went into effect, including a requirement that the main level of a home be accessible for a wheelchair in both new construction and remodels. The good news is that BRHI has always incorporated universal design features such as this in our projects. In fact, many remodeling design trends have a lot in common with universal design, making barrier free living both standard and a sought after luxury.

Bathrooms

Some of the most popular bath design trends — large, walk-in showers without doors, boutique tiles, versatile shower sprays — fit right in with designs that make showers safe, accessible and comfortable to use. Even wall niches that create a custom design double as accessible storage for both children and adults. Comfort height toilets are another luxury that also removes barriers. With a higher seat between 16 and 17 inches above the floor, these toilets are ideal for tall residents, the elderly and those with mobility issues.

Custom Cabinetry

Throughout the home, cabinets do double-duty as both a unique design statement and universal design feature. Built-ins and wall-mounted cabinets create a custom look, while also providing open floor space to accommodate homeowners and guests with wheelchairs, walkers and canes. Wall-mounted cabinets also leave floor spaces clear and easy to clean. Walk-in closets with built-in drawers, pull-out trays and multi-height hang bars help keep everything organized and easily accessible.

Entryways, Stairs and Flooring

Steps, steep walkways, doorways and other structural features that make it impossible to use a wheelchair to get in, out or around the house. Ramps provide a gradual slope up into your home, and interior stair lifts can allow access between floors. We also use smooth, low-profile thresholds to ease transitions between different types of flooring, such as hardwood-to-tile.

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KITCHENS FOR ALL

with Wellborn's *ActiveLiving* Cabinetry

Incorporating universal design features and products into your remodel makes good sense and can be so attractive that no one notices them — except for how easy they are to use.

Which is why we're so excited about Wellborn's Active Living line. Kitchens are the busiest room in the house. Not only does everyone in the home use this space, but it is also full of potential sources of strains, repetitive motion, and awkward positions.

Wellborn's Active Living Cabinetry allows people of all ages to be self-sufficient with these key features:

- Keep work in "neutral zone".
- Eliminate or reduce twisting.

- Place heaviest pots and pans on mid-level shelves and light items on lower levels.
- Use a sit-stand chair at the counter for frequent chopping and cutting.
- Increased task and general lighting.
- Position tools and controls easily within reach.
- Replace door knobs with levers or open handles.

As a Wellborn Authorized Dealer, we're able to offer a comprehensive collection of finishes and door styles to design a kitchen that matches your personal taste while meeting your needs for years to come.



HOW TO: *get started* on an aging-in-place project

I know I want to incorporate aging-in-place features into my remodel, but how do I get started with this type of project?

Even though aging-in-place and universal design features are becoming standard in remodeling, you still need to make sure you're hiring a professional that is qualified and experienced in this design work.

Step One: First Contact

This first step happens after you've looked around your home and realized that it can somehow be better: more functional, more accessible. Whatever your goals are, you've decided it's time to bring in the pros for help. For this type of project, you want to look for a professional who is a Certified Aging-in-Place Specialist (CAPS). CAPS is a program through the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) for specialists who work with active, aging adults. In fact, BRHI was the first CAPS remodeler in southwest Virginia. You can find a list of CAPS remodelers in your area on the NAHB website: www.nahb.org.

Step Two: Initial Consultation

A professional remodeler like BRHI will schedule an initial consultation at your home to perform a needs assessment. We'll take pictures and notes, and gather information on the areas of concern, structural and accessibility issues, and current barriers.

Step Three: Design Concepts

At this point, a professional remodeler will start outlining solutions for and approaches to the project ahead. During this step, we consider the health, safety and welfare of the home's residents and make evaluations in the context of the living environment, age, and daily functions of the individual.



DESIGN
phase

SHOULD I

REMODEL

ADD-ON

MOVE



At some point, we may find our home no longer fits our needs. Perhaps our family has grown. Or maybe as we've gotten older it is no longer accessible. Whatever the case, it just doesn't fit.

But how do you know when it makes sense to remodel, add-on to your home or to move? There is no easy answer to that question, and your best bet is to bring in a professional remodeler that can assess your options.

But here are some questions you can ask yourself before you call in a professional:

- Are you happy with your neighborhood and the location of your home?
- Would remodeling bring your house up to par with other houses in your neighborhood or exceed it?
- Are there other homes on the market that would suit your needs?
- What features would be necessary to increase the functionality of your home?

Once you consider these questions, a professional remodeler can determine which option is most feasible.

**NEED HELP WITH
THESE QUESTIONS?**

**WE CAN HELP. CALL
540.951.3505 FOR A
CONSULTATION.**

NEWSLETTER OF:

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PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS



Project Files

Brick Floored Front Porch

problem

Contrary to popular belief, brick is a porous material and can't be counted on to keep water out of your house. Water penetrated the brick and rotted the framing in the adjacent garage.

solution

We built a roof over the front porch to protect the front entry, as well as prevent water from soaking the floor and penetrating the structure.



Inset Top: Water penetrated the brick of the front steps. Inset Bottom: The water rotted the framing of the adjacent garage.

after