

Home Assessment Checklist

General Household

1. Is there good lighting available, especially around stairwells?
2. Are there handrails (which can be easily grasped) on both sides of the staircases, designed to indicate when top and bottom steps have been reached?
3. Are top and bottom steps painted in easily seen colors? Are nonskid treads used?
4. Are the edges of rugs tacked down? (Suggest the use of "wall-to-wall carpeting).
5. Is a telephone present? Does the telephone have a dial that is easily readable? Are emergency numbers written in large print and kept near the telephone?
6. Are electrical cords, footstools, and other low-lying objects kept out of walkways?
7. Are electrical cords in good condition?
8. Is furniture arranged to allow for free movement in heavily traveled areas?
9. Is furniture sturdy enough to give support?
10. Is furniture designed to accommodate easy transfers on and off?

11. Is the temperature of the home within a comfortable range?
12. If fireplaces or other heating devices are present, do they have protective screens?
13. Are smoke detectors present (especially in the kitchen and bedroom)?
14. Are rapidly closing doors eliminated?
15. Are there alternative exits from the house? List them.
16. Are basements and attics easy to get to, well lighted, and well ventilated?
17. Are slippers and shoes in good repair? Do they fit properly and have nonskid soles?
18. Are there loose extension cords, small sliding rugs, and slippery linoleum tiles present?
(Suggest the use of rubber-backed, nonskid rugs and nonskid floor wax).
19. Is the cooking stove gas or electric?
20. Are there large easily readable dials present on the stove or other appliances, with the
“on” and “off” positions clearly marked?
21. Are refrigerators in good working order? Are refrigerators placed on 18-inch
platforms to avoid bending over?

22. Are spaces for food storage adequate? Are shelves at eye level and easily reachable?
23. Is a sturdy stepladder present for reaching?
24. Are electrical circuits overloaded with too many appliances?
25. Are electrical appliances disconnected when not in use?
26. Are sharp objects (such as carving knives) kept in special holders?
27. Are cleaning fluids, polishes, bleaches, detergents, and all poisons stored separately and clearly marked?
28. Are kitchen chairs sturdy, with arm rests with high backs?
29. Is the stove free from flammable objects?
30. Are potholders available for removing pots and pans from the stove?
31. Is baking soda available in case of fire and easily accessible?

Bathroom

1. Are there grab bars in the bath, in the shower, and around the toilet?
2. Are toilet seats high enough to get on and off of without difficulty?
3. Can the bathroom door be easily closed to ensure privacy? Do doors lock? (If so, is a key readily available?)
4. Are the bathroom doorways wide enough for easy wheelchair and walker access?
5. Are there nonskid rubber mats in the bath, in the shower, and on the floor?
6. Is there good lighting in the area of the medicine cabinet? Where is the medicine cabinet located (best in a well-lit non-humid area)?
7. Are internal and external medications stored separately? And safely (especially important with young grandchildren present in the house)?
8. Do medication containers have childproof tops? Are they labeled in large print? Is a magnifying glass present for reading medication instructions?
9. Have all outdated medications been discarded?
10. Do you notice any medication (both prescription and over-the-counter) that could cause adverse side effects or drug-drug interactions that the client is unaware of?

11. Can the water temperature be easily regulated?
12. Are electrical cores, outlets, and appliances a safe distance from the tub?
13. Are razor blades kept in a safe place?
14. Is a first aid kit available? Where is it kept?

Bedroom

1. Is there adequate lighting from the bedside to the bathroom?
2. Are lights easily accessible? (If not, suggest keeping a flashlight by the bedside or using a flashlight for entry into dark rooms if light switch is not within easy reach).
3. Are beds in good repair?
4. Are beds at the proper height to allow for easy transfer on and off without difficulty?
5. Do bedroom rugs have nonskid rubber backings?