

Practitioner Manual for Home Modifications

**A Manual devised by the SWEP Clinical Advisory Team to
assist SWEP registered practitioners**



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Acknowledgements for information and use of images goes to:
ILC, Endeavour Industries, Yooralla AT Learning, OT Draw

Images in this manual have been used to demonstrate the range and breadth of features available within this AT category. However, the images provided should not be considered an endorsement of a particular product; nor should they be considered an exhaustive list of all products or features available. As a practitioner you need to use due diligence to ensure that the item and supplier you recommend is best suited to your consumer, their wishes and needs. SWEP will not be held liable for any mismatch of consumer and AT interface that has resulted from the use of Images or information in this manual.

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Background

The State-wide Equipment Program (SWEP) Clinical Advisors have developed this resource manual to:

- Provide useful information for practitioners
- Give links to evidence-based practices
- Recommend assessments to assist with identifying successful Home Modification solutions
- Outline potential risks to consider related to the consumer, support people and the environment
- Describe relevant items and provide links to a range of product types and options

Guidelines and application process

SWEP offers eligible practitioners a registration and credentialing process, whereby credentialing levels are assigned for specific areas of practice according to *The Standard*. For full details on all available credentialing pathways please refer to relevant standard and information found below.

The Standards: <https://swep.bhs.org.au/the-standard.php>

Process for registration and credentialing: <https://swep.bhs.org.au/registration-and-credentialing.php>

SWEP also provides an online application portal to collect and manage requests for AT items. This is integrated with the registration and credentialing framework to match AT Practitioner level with consumer and item complexity and establish urgency of consumer need.

Please refer to the funding body for which your consumer is eligible to determine the relevant guidelines for what types of AT items will be considered for funding, and whether or not the SWEP portal should be used to submit an application.

<https://swep.bhs.org.au/programs-services.php>

Products Supplied (summary)

The type of items supplied in this category can be, but not limited to ramps and platform steps, rails, bidets, bathroom modifications, entry widening to allow for wheelchair access, shower base inserts, safety slip resistant flooring and joinery modification to allow wheelchair access.

Recommended Assessments and Requirements

The AT Practitioner needs to consider:

- The consumer's long-term plans for where and how they will live
- Others using the area proposed to be modified and their needs
- The consumer's physical limitations – anthropometric needs, both current and those reasonably expected in the future
- Any available support people and their abilities and level of commitment to assisting the consumer
- The land surrounding the home, size, direction of any slope
- The current access to the home, front, side and back (most workable option)
- The most appropriate access point to the house, such as a remote operated electric garage door for consumers who use a scooter
- Outdoor lighting, colours of finishes and materials, shape of door handles, weather protection, security (SWEP does not fund these items)
- The current condition and dimensions of the building
- The current home environment (including any AT used at home)
- The current access to the area proposed to be modified
- The current characteristics of the area that is planned to be modified
- Any financial resources available for the project
- Any additional AT that may be required
- SWEP cannot fund items considered part of the maintenance of the property, e.g., replacement of rotten steps, floorboards, or veranda posts, slip resistant materials on ramps, leaking taps/showers, water damage impacting tiles etc.
- What other options have been considered before confirming the need for home modifications i.e., temporary /low-cost modifications such as raised shower base and threshold ramp vs installation of level entry shower

Considerations for Practitioners/Equipment

Ownership of the property

The property owner needs to be considered in relation to the works as they have the ultimate authority to allow works to proceed:

- Understanding of the proposed home modifications and their permanency or ability to be reversed should the consumer no longer reside at the property
- Expectations of how the home will look and function at the completion of the modification
- Obligations to fund any aspect of the home modification e.g., updating wiring/fuse box to facilitate new wiring required as part of bathroom modifications, or repairs to foundations of home so that level entry shower can be installed
- Responsibility for organising and funding ongoing repairs and maintenance for the home modifications.

Further considerations

- A draftsperson or architect is not required to prepare drawings for non-structural home modifications, but may provide useful information during the assessment process
- Concept drawings / photos should be provided as part of your application. Please refer to SWEP process regarding required documentation on our website [here](#) under the home modifications section
- A draftsperson or architect is usually required to prepare drawings where buildings or planning approval is required. The [Home Modification Information Clearinghouse](#) provides information regarding the prescribing AT Practitioners liability related to home modifications.

Consumer Characteristics That May Impact on the Application

Skin integrity

A consumer's skin integrity can be impacted by the environment in which they function, as well as the equipment they use. Considering this interaction is essential in prescription of a home modification, regardless of whether SWEP are funding it.

Skin Integrity and the ability to sense heat and cold, along with water pressure should be considered, when assessing need for thermostatic water controls and heating/cooling provisions.

Cognitive impairments and personality disorders

Consider:

- Consumer's ability to adjust to the changes being suggested. Will changes to the environment have a detrimental impact on their cognitive function?
- Whether the consumer's ability to predict or understand functional tasks is affected by their environment
- The level of personal support required initially or ongoing to facilitate the Consumer's adjustment
- Specifications of a modification for the Consumer which may include:
 - Thermostats
 - design of taps
 - lighting
 - colour contrasts of fixtures and fittings.

Use of restraints

The issue of restraint is generally more relevant to the equipment categories, rather than home modifications, but should be considered if security features e.g., locks, catches, fences are to be included in a modification prescription.

There are regulations that guide the use of restraints. For more information, refer to <https://providers.dffh.vic.gov.au/restrictive-interventions>

Behaviours of concern

Consider modifications that:

- Offer an environment that is free from hazards, as predictably controllable and as understandable as possible for the consumer
- Takes advantage of the way the consumer interprets and interacts with and within their environment through their senses including vision, auditory and somatosensation
- Provides cues that support desirable behavior, e.g., a rail to hold onto while someone positions a chair for the consumer to sit on
- Considers the environmental needs and safety of a carer who is supporting the consumer to manage their behaviors of concern
- Have robust fittings/features where needed

Children and adolescents

- In general, the Australian Standards describe access for average sized adults
- [AS 1428.3 -1992 Design for access and mobility - Requirements for children and adolescents with physical disabilities](#) provides guidelines for access for children aged 6-18 years
- Consider the impact of smaller stature, smaller reach distance and altered sight lines for younger consumers but allow for reasonable changes with growth and development
- Understand the needs and plans of families currently, and in the future, including where they plan to live and how they plan to assist and support their child, siblings, and other family members.

Bariatric needs

- Architect/Draftsperson may be able to assist in identifying appropriate solutions for consumers in this demographic
- Consider current and likely future needs including AT
- Wider entries and doors
- Larger circulation spaces
- Weight capacity of floors, ramps, rails, and ceiling beams for hoists
- Durability of finishes, hinges, and fittings, how the consumer will use the space and complete daily tasks
- Transitions between floor surfaces/levels
[Peninsula Health Care Network - Occupational Therapy evidence-based practice guidelines for the prescription of bariatric home modifications.](#)

Underweight/deconditioned/frail and elderly

Consider:

- Fatigue and energy conservation, i.e., efficiency of use of the proposed modification
- Weight of doors and other items such as drop-down rails
- Distances and places to rest
- Transitions between floor surfaces/levels.
- Carer's needs and ability to move the AT/mods as needed.

Rapidly changing conditions

Consider the ways that the proposed modification will accommodate the following:

- Rate of functional change & Fluctuations in function
- Weight change – loss or gain
- Change in cognitive or physical ability
- Change in mental health
- Possible future AT.

Occupancy of the home

Consider whether the design brief is for a consumer living independently or with assistance, now and in the future.

Are there other people living in the home or who visit regularly?

Will the home modifications affect their use of the home?

Consideration of the support person(s) now and in the future

- Whether a support person is available and engaged to assist and if so, how often and for what duration?
- The safety of the support person in the design
- Short and long-term options if a support person is unavailable
- Work health and safety requirements of formal supports.

Cultural requirements

Consider cultural requirements that influence the design of a home modification and the way the Consumer wishes to be assisted, for example:

- Kosher Kitchen with separate utensils, food preparation and cleaning areas for meat and dairy products

[UNSW - Home modifications and inclusive design in Aboriginal housing.t](#)

Key life transition

Whether the person, or their key supports, are planning or are in the process of a life transition, e.g., starting/finishing school, beginning tertiary education, beginning/returning to work, moving out of home, entering/leaving a cohabiting relationship

- Retiring, moving into aged residential support
- Whether all relevant parties agree in terms of support, finances, and plans. It is important to note that the consumer is considered as the decision maker wherever possible.

Preparing the SWEP application

The creation of a good home modification application is not only founded on the consultation and agreement with the consumer and/or their representatives; but clearly defines how it is expected the consumer will use the modified environment and with what equipment and assistance/support.

Pick list codes

All modifications administered by SWEP use a unique identification pick list code.

This code defines the requested modification. Please refer to

<https://swep.bhs.org.au/picklists-catalogue.php>

Please note:

It is the responsibility of the AT Practitioner to justify the prescription of all items based on the consumer's needs as a person who is frail, aged and/or has a disability.

SWEP will only fund what is required and not what is wanted or desired. This manual uses pictures for illustration purposes only and the AT Practitioner is not limited to the items displayed in the manual.

The AT Practitioner should:

- Ensure that they discuss the outcome of the assessment with all relevant parties
- Ensure the builder quoting is registered. This can be checked at <https://www.vba.vic.gov.au/tools/find-practitioner>
- Familiarise themselves with the SWEP online AT Practitioner Application form and home modification application process
- Ensure the full name of the homeowner is known and if applicable their agent, and that they approve of the works by writing, signing, and dating the SWEP homeowner agreement form and quotation(s). See documents on our [website](#) under the Specific to Home Modifications section
- Consider peer review of the application, prior to submission to SWEP. If you do not have the credentialing levels to prescribe the home modification, check to see if you have another SWEP Registered AT Practitioner that can sign off on your application before requesting Clinical Advisor review.

During construction

It is recommended that the AT Practitioner:

- Ensures that suitable arrangements for the consumer are in place during the construction phase, e.g., area for personal hygiene and toileting, respite (SWEP do not fund costs associated with respite/portable bathrooms) following consultation with applicant, homeowner and/or carers
- Arrange for the consumer to be informed when construction starts and concludes

- Ensure that all parties are aware that the AT Practitioner needs to be consulted during the construction phase if problems arise or if there is a need for deviation from the agreed plan
- Draftsperson/architects, engineers and builders may need advice from the AT Practitioner to ensure that any changes to the design preserve the desired functionality for the consumer.

Signing off

The AT Practitioner will:

- Ensure the builder is aware that the AT Practitioner and the client both need to sign-off at completion of the home modification in order to facilitate the release of funds
- Inspect the completed home modification to confirm that the modification specified meets the functional needs of the consumer, and sign the certificate of completion to verify this
- Inform SWEPP of any relevant issue that may arise and take action as appropriate to resolve the issue.

Considerations

- Careful consideration needs to be given to the appropriateness of substantial permanent modification to rented properties and factors such as any plans the consumer may have to relocate in the future. Alternate housing may be more appropriate
- Financial arrangements for top up amounts for modifications to rental properties are made between the homeowner or their agent and the consumer. For more information see [Consumer Affairs Victoria - Renting](#)
- Additional information for renters can be found here <https://www.consumer.vic.gov.au/housing/renting/repairs-alterations-safety-and-pets/renters-making-changes-to-the-property>

Compliance with Australian Standards

When do the Australian Standards apply?

The National Construction Code (NCC) details the requirements for new construction or renovations of various classes of buildings and the requirements for compliance with the various relevant Australian Standards (AS).

Private homes are classified as “Class 1a buildings – a single dwelling being (i) a detached house or (ii) one of a group of two or more attached dwellings each

- Being a building, separated by a fire resisting wall, including a row house, terrace house, town house or villa unit”
- SWEPP requires, wherever possible, that modifications subsidised by their programs comply with AS1428.1.2021, however compliance with AS

1428.1.2021 is a guide only, and the application of AS must be appropriate for the consumer's functional needs

- The BCA does not require alterations to Class 1a buildings to comply with:
[AS 1428.1 - 2021 Design for Access and Mobility](#)
- [Disability \(Access to Premises- Building\) Standards 2010 \(updated 2020\)](#)
- Remember that these standards are relevant to the “average” adult. They also do not include information specific to people with larger sized mobility aids, e.g., powered wheelchairs, scooters, bariatric equipment.

‘The Standards are used as best practice guide in the design and implementation for home modifications for people that are frail aged or have a disability.’

A home modification application that is not compliant with the previously stated standards is required to have a written statement as to the nature of the non-compliance and an explanation of the circumstances and clinical reasoning behind the decision to propose a non-compliant solution.

- If the identified solution is a modification that is not compliant with the Australian Standards, this must be validated by a **Red** AT Practitioner for SWEP funding to be made available
- A **Red** AT Practitioner that is validating/approving a home modification is doing so on the following basis:
 - Compliance with the relevant Australian Standard means that the functional needs of the consumer specified in the application will not be met **and/or**
 - Compliance with the relevant Australian Standard cannot be made due to the nature of and/or existing improvements or environment at the Property **and/or**
 - Compliance with AS 1428.1(2021) would impose undue hardship on the consumer/homeowner or their agent
- A **Red** AT Practitioner is required to understand the implications of validating a home modification that is not compliant and the prescribing AT Practitioner will ensure that the homeowner and/or consumer is aware of the risks

The AT Practitioner is strongly advised to discuss any concerns with the relevant Building Professional and/or the [Victorian Building Authority](#).

For more information, refer to relevant standards:

- <https://www.standards.org.au/>
- https://www.vba.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/146205/Building_AC_01_-_Access-to-buildings-for-people.pdf

Assistive Equipment Consideration

Ramps

- AS 1428.1 (2021)
- Pedestrian access from the street to the house
- Slope/ fall of land
- The existing driveway, access to and parking for cars, motor bikes, utility vehicles and other vehicles
- Usual path of travel for the consumer/family both inside and outside of home.
- Entry of lowest height to the home
- Clear passage for ramp. Consider overhead and other environmental factors, which may impact clear width and use of ramp.
- Storage and access to rubbish, recycle and green waste bins
- Drainage from appliances which may create a trip hazard from discharged fluids e.g., hot water system, air conditioner unit
- Exposed ramps require a surface to reduce the possibility of people slipping.
- All ramps including threshold/step/kerb ramps require regular cleaning, sweeping, checking for slip hazards, e.g., moss and mould, maintenance of loose bolts, raised nails, rotten boards or other deterioration that may cause a hazard to users.

Threshold Ramps

- Refer AS1428.1 (2021)
- Only for step heights less than 35mm height,
- Landing is not required
- Consumer balance on threshold ramp when accessing door locks/handles, including stability in wheelchair, swing of the door. If there is a step present at the entrance, a step ramp may be required (refer to the next section regarding step ramps).

Step Ramps

- Refer AS1428.1 (2021)
- Requirements for landings at both top and bottom of ramp
- Required dimensions of landings differ dependent on direction of door opening
- Cross pedestrian traffic – be careful not to create a trip hazard
- Ability of consumer to use ramp currently and in future, including gradient and use of AT.

Platform steps and step landings

Consider The long-term ability of the consumer to use the modification safely.

Remember that platform steps:

- Are not steps but a series of landings
- Are not covered in AS1428.1 (2021) or the NCC
- May take up considerable space
- Are not necessarily cheaper than a ramp
- May not be the best functional option.

Possible alternatives to platform steps:

- Additional gait aid at top/bottom of steps
- Use/modify alternate entrance
- Ramp
- Platform lift/stair lift

Elements to consider:

Person

- Ability to manage a step independently or with use of their mobility aid.
- Height of step they can manage- Consult with building professional regarding NCC/BCA requirements and relevant Australian standards
- Total footprint of the person and mobility aid
- Reliance on use of rail(s) or aid on the step
- Ability of the consumer or carer to lift the mobility aid up or down one or more steps
- Likelihood of future decline in mobility
- Other users

Environment

- Availability of sufficient space to fit required number of steps (dependent on footprint and total rise)
- Steps must be consistent in dimensions, i.e., height, depth, and width
- Avoid making a trip hazard for consumer, others in the house or people using this entrance
- Steps to have nosing
- Materials will be slip resistant
- Position and exposure to the elements
- Ongoing maintenance
- Other users

Useful reference for ramps:

<https://www.homemods.info/resources/hminfo-research-publications/industry/industry-checklist-cost-benefit-factors-when-choosing-between-ramps-and-lifts>

Hoists

See the [SWEP Prescriber Manual for Transfers, Hoists and Slings](#) for details.

Ceiling hoists, including tracking, are not funded as part of the home modifications application. Visit the [SWEP webpage](#) for more information

Bathroom design

For more information refer to the online references at the end of this manual.

Electrical standards

For more information:

[J. Quinn & C Bridge - Summary Bulletin: Electrical Safety in the Bathroom 2nd ed. \(2014\)](#)

[AS/NZS 3000:2018](#)

Vanity units (SWEP do not fund cupboards around vanity basins)

Consider:

- Functional use of the vanity- how will/does the consumer use the space
- Construction to allow wheelchair access
- Knee/toe clearance
- Growth and change in function (current & future)
- Current and future AT needs
- Insulation on plumbing to reduce burns risk for consumers with decreased sensation
- Ability to reach and operate taps
- Angle/height of mirror
- Storage of items needed at the vanity
- Electrical considerations

Level entry showers

SWEPS provides funding towards home modifications for level entry showers. These include the recommendation of shower bases for the formation of a level entry shower or a less expensive option of a shower base insert.

Consider:

- How will the space be used?
- Change in function- current and future
- AT needs – current and future
- Needs for carers to assist with showering tasks
- Location of shower within bathroom- access and water drainage/splashing outside of bathroom. Risk of splashing/water damage to other features in bathroom e.g., vanity unit, electrical considerations

- Ability of consumer and carers to reach taps, handheld shower, and other fittings/features.
- Storage of shower items within shower
- Need and location of grab rails
- location of the floor outlet (side, middle, grate etc.).

Flooring

For more information:

<https://www.abcb.gov.au/sites/default/files/resources/2020//Advisory-Note-Slip-Resistance.pdf>

[K.Whitfield, C. Bridge & S. Mathews - Coatings: Evidence Based Research: Selecting Coatings for Tiled Floors. \(2005\)](#)

Hot water

Practitioners should consider the temperature of hot water.

A Thermostatic Mixing Valve (TMV) is an option for bathrooms if there is not one already. Most hot water systems now deliver water to a pre-set maximum temperature. So, while a TMV may meet the funding criteria based on clinical evidence, an existing hot water service

Liaise with licensed plumber regarding hot water control and functionality that your consumer needs.

For more information:

[P. Carnemolla & C. Bridge - Summary Bulletin: Regulatory Requirements for Controlling Water Temperature in Bathrooms \(2016\)](#)

<https://www.vba.vic.gov.au/consumers/guides/hot-water-safety#:~:text=Hot%20water%20needs%20to%20be,tap%20at%20a%20lower%20temperature>

Kitchen design

Consider:

- Relevant Australian standards including AS1428.1 and 1428.2
 - Reach ranges/access as per AS1428.2 (1992 R2015)
- All the people that may use the space including consumer, family, carers, and formal supports
- Access to sink - bowl depth, risk of burns if no cabinetry is surrounding sink
- Reach to taps and type of taps used e.g., lever or quarter turn lever taps
- Height of work surfaces, wheelchair access and seating access underneath
- Access to fridge, pantries, dishwasher, oven, microwave, and cooktop

- How will objects be moved around the kitchen, how will the space be functionally used
- Consider controls of appliances – how does the consumer manage dials/ ovens etc. Whilst SWEP does not fund Appliances themselves, functionality and access should still be considered
- Lighting and access to power points and switches.

For more information:

- Refer to the online references at the beginning of this manual
- Refer to the funded products and when they might be prescribed (Child and Adult) at the end of this manual

Laundry design

Consider:

- How the space will be used and all people that will need to use the space.
- Access to washing machine and drier including reach to controls
- Access to trough - bowl depth
- Reach to taps and type of taps used e.g., lever or quarter turn lever taps
- Height of work surfaces
- Access to clothes rack and to external clothesline
- Laundries are often more confined or narrow spaces. Consideration for door swing and turning capacity is required
- Ability to carry/lift a basket of wet laundry

For more information:

- Refer to the online references at the beginning of this manual
- Refer to the funded products and when they might be prescribed (Child and Adult) at the end of this manual
- Australian Standards: 1428.2 (1992 R2015) and 4299 (1995)

Contract/Tender Details

SWEP does not have contracted suppliers for home modification items.

Summary of Evidence

There are a number of on-line resources in relation to home modifications:

Australia

https://infostore.saiglobal.com/en-au/Standards/Product-Details-121880_SAIG_AS_AS_255788/?ProductID=121880_SAIG_AS_AS_255788

https://infostore.saiglobal.com/en-au/Standards/Product-Details-127773_SAIG_AS_AS_274509/?ProductID=127773_SAIG_AS_AS_274509

[Chris Reardon - Your home: Design for Lifestyle and the Future](#)

[Home Modifications Australia](#)

[Home Modification Information Clearinghouse - "Grabrails and more"](#)

International

- <https://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/developing-and-renovating/accessible-adaptable-housing/accessible-housing-by-design>

This listing is a guide and is not intended to be exhaustive.

There are many current articles available through academic publications on the impact of home modifications and AT Practitioners interventions, which include:



Reference Text



I· Ainsworth, E & de Jonge, De. (2011). An Occupational

Therapist's Guide to Home Modification Practice. Slack Incorporated, NJ.


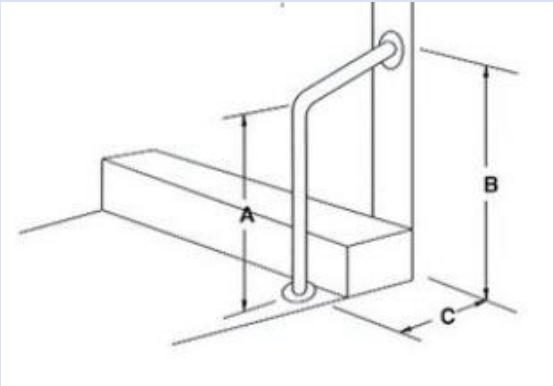
- ISBN: 978-1-55642-852-4

Appendix 1: Product range and features

Assistive Technology	Information	Functional Implications
Toilet modifications including bidet suite or bidet toilet attachments – Pick List HM07		
Bidet attachment 	<p>Fits onto existing toilet</p> <p>Replaces existing toilet seat</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plumbing and electrical requirements Check compatibility with current toilet and plumbing • Item requires plumbing for attachment (similar to first point) • Consumer anthropometrics and ability to transfer • Hand function of consumer • Compatibility with AT- e.g., over toilet frame, commode chair <p>Consideration is required regarding if a backflow valve is required (consult Plumber/Builder)</p> <p>https://www.vba.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/111627/200427-VBA-issues-health-warnings-over-DIY-bidets-and-alternative-toileting-devices.pdf</p>
Bidet toilet suite 	<p>Automatically cleans consumer following toileting. Appropriate for clients who may not be able to do so otherwise</p> <p>All-in-one unit which is separate to the toilet</p>	<p>https://www.vba.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/98445/PlumbingFactSheet-Handheld-sprays-and-water-points-adjacent-to-water-closets.pdf</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for warm or cold water for washing • Consider if a drying feature is required • Can installation be completed by a consumer /support person or does this need to be installed by a professional?

<p>Toilet support rail</p> 	<p>Bilateral horizontal rails that the user pushes down on both rails to aid in sitting to standing or are used to assist in guiding the user from standing to sitting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple finishes are available in stainless steel or powder coating • Are clamped to the bowl as a semi-permanent fixture • Consider rails and surrounding walls. Is there a risk of entrapment between the rail and the wall? • Weight capacity of rail system being recommended. Consider the forces that the consumer uses when utilising the rails. • Other types of grab rails that may assist <p>Toilet seat spacers are also available with some rail options.</p>
<p>Water closet modification</p> 	<p>Any modifications to the room that a toilet and/or hand basin is located in</p> <p>Excludes rooms that has a shower or bath</p> <p>The builder will provide a detailed quotation listing all items and labour required for the home modification</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider other items in the room such as a hand basin and how this may impact with mobility aids • Can an over toilet frame, toilet support rails and/or a spacer be used? • Often for water closets the door swings into the room. Is there a possibility that the consumer will fall inside the room against a closed door? How will this risk be managed?

HM01 Handrails – any type of railing up to \$2,000

<p>Handrail</p> 	<p>Rails used for stabilising support or within</p> <p>Circulation areas Refer to AS 1428.1(2021) for definitions and standards for size and configurations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Material & Length required • Coating – slip resistance, colour contrast • Consumer grip and reach • Weight of Consumer vs. working load of rail • Plumbing, electrical and stud location in wall • Standard rail sizes include, 300, 450, 600, 750 and 900 mm • Best positioning for client function and building structural stability
<p>Handrail & banister rail (customised)</p> 	<p>Used for stabilizing support or within circulation areas Custom made to meet the requirement of the consumer & the environment Suitable for both indoors/outdoors Can be made out a variety of textured finishes Can be powder coated or made in stainless steel</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Material used to make rail and environmental factors such as proximity to ocean/sea, frost/ice, temperature, and risk of burns • Length – fixed, modular, custom • Coating – slip resistance, colour contrast • Consumer grip and reach • Weight of consumer and working load of rail Vision requirements of consumer e.g., need for certain colours or tactile indicators.

HM08 Kitchen mods nonstructural up to \$10,000

HM06 Bathroom / Laundry mods – nonstructural up to \$10,000

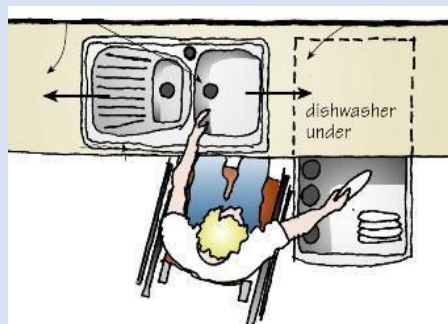
Shelving to facilitate access



Shelving can be relocated anywhere within a household for essential access by a person because of their functional needs

- How will the space be used?
- Can items be kept elsewhere? Is there clutter- are all items needed?
- Consider the workflow of the space and functional tasks that need to be completed
- What other people need to use the space, including other household residents and carers/supports.
- Height and access from both standing and seated position
- Functional reach range of consumer including impact of their AT
- Functional reach range of other household residents

Kitchen modifications



Includes any modifications to make a kitchen accessible

SWEP does not fund appliances

- Size of consumer, and their AT
- Consumer needs and considerations- anthropometrics, cognition, reach, fine motor skills, vision, strength, endurance, balance
- Doorway width requirements
- Access to taps/sink/stove top, light switches, and GPOs – knee/toe clearance, height, and fixture type
- Access to fridge/microwave/oven – height and direction of door opening
- Circulation space
- Height of cupboards and style of handle and needs of other people in household e.g. children, older persons with decreased cognition.
- Electrical considerations

HM03 Minor Bathroom modifications up to \$2000

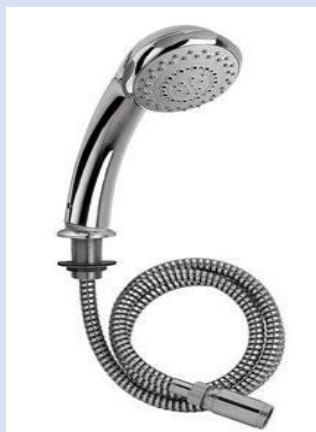
Switchcock/Diverter for handheld shower



Are used to divert the flow of water away from the fixed shower rose to the handheld shower

- The lever on the switchcock to divert water may be difficult for people with decreased grip or strength to use. Consider the model being recommended
- Mounting height and access from both standing and seated position
- Functional reach range of other household residents



Handheld shower








Extension hose replaces fixed shower rose

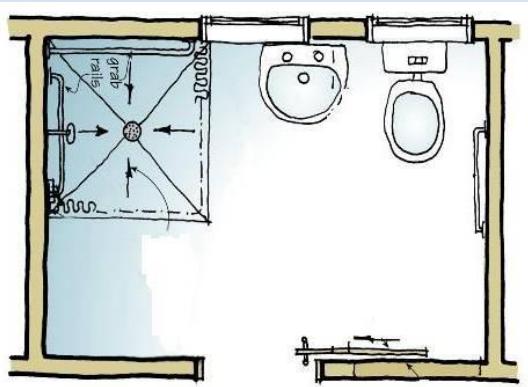
Has the ability to direct the water to different areas of the body to assist with cleaning



- Mounting height and access from both standing and seated position
- Functional reach range of other household residents
- Likelihood of consumer to use handheld shower rail as support (if included). Ensure any shower hose grab rails are installed as fully functional grab rails.
- Usually not compatible with older style gravity-fed hot water systems (consult plumber/builder)
- Water pressure consistency
- Can be fitted with a switchcock that allows water to be sent to 1 of 2 shower heads available (i.e., standard fixed and hand-held)
- Confirm with the plumber that a handheld shower cannot reach the toilet as this may pose a back-flow issue.



<p>Taps</p> 	<p>The items must be considered as specialized hardware that is designed to assist with functional ability of a person with a disability</p> <p>May include single projection taps with long handle such as lever taps</p> <p>Two taps included</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider tap turner first • Consider quarter turn capstan washers as well • Clearance behind/in front of lever for hand access • Functional reach range of Consumer • Consumer's functional use of hands, grip strength and endurance • Can be used for basin, sink, trough, or shower
<p>Thermostatic mixing valve</p> 	<p>Devices fitted to limit the temperature of either a single or multiple outlets within a household</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate water temperature to meet consumer's functional needs • Is a tempering valve already installed/sufficient to meet needs? • Consumer thermoregulation issues • Concealed vs. exposed models • What outlets need to be controlled? • Consider tap style to be used to further minimize scalding risk • Usually not compatible with gravity-fed hot water systems • Do not turn temperature down on hot water service as this increases the risk of bacteria breeding in tank




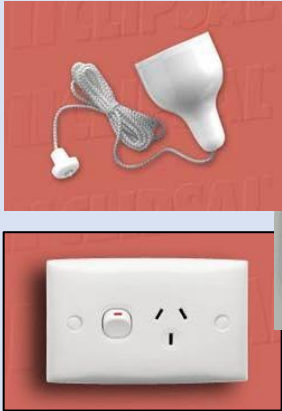

<p>Hand basin where it facilitates access</p> 	<p>Usually mounted to the wall to allow a person to access a basin, with consideration to their functional and AT needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there adequate space to place toiletries at the location of the basin? • What storage is required at basin? • Appropriate height from the ground • Obstacles under the basin which may impede the consumer access to the basin, such as pipes, waste trap • Consider a single mixer tap or taps • Clinical need for a sensor operated water flow and or at a set temperature • Can be provided with an overflow design • Mirror location in relation to taps and where the consumer will be positioned. • Can any vanity shaving cupboard still be opened?
<p>Shower screen removal</p> 	<p>Removal of the door can increase access as sliding or opening doors can be an obstacle</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doors can restrict safe access to grab rails • Need for rails or other equipment • Consumers ability to manage step into shower/bath • Curtains/rod not funded via SWEP- however should be considered e.g., for ceiling hoist use such as telescopic rods. • Consider drainage of water- need for weighted curtain or other AT to reduce spread of water. • Include education to consumer regarding risk of slipping on wet surface, water damage to boards/impact on flooring
<p>HM09 Complex home modifications – Access over \$10,000</p>		
<p>Stair lift external - straight</p>	<p>Designed to withstand outside weather</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the consumer have the required cognitive and physical ability to operate the controls to maneuver the seat and use the seat belt?


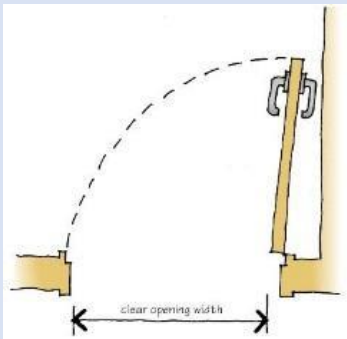
	<p>Often provided with a waterproof cover</p> <p>Can be operated by carer by using an infra-red remote control</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who will remove the waterproof cover if required? Has the consumer the capacity to perform this task? • Has the carer the capacity to perform this task? <p>Often provided with safety features such as a retractable seat belt, safety sensors to prevent the seat from contacting obstructions on the steps, diagnostic information to show faults</p>
<p>Stair lift internal – curved</p>  <p>Internal Straight - Platform lift</p> 	<p>Used for internal building access</p> <p>Custom made to suit straight or curved/multiple flights of internal stairs</p> <p>Can be often operated by carer by using an infra-red remote control</p> <p>Often provided with safety features such as a retractable seat belt, safety sensors to prevent the seat from contacting obstructions on the steps, diagnostic information to show</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the consumer have the required cognitive and physical ability to operate the controls to maneuver their seat and use the seat belt? • Increased complexity in construction for curved installation and purchase price when compared to internal straight stair lifts • How does the consumer respond to being transported around curves while seated? • Other users of the stairs

	faults	
HM10 Complex Home modifications- Bathroom/Laundry over \$10,000		
Bathroom modification 	<p>Modifications that include basin to facilitate wheelchair access, level entry shower, and flooring modifications</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See AS 1428.1(2021) for recommended dimensions and set-up • Current and future size/weight of consumer and their AT. • How the space will be used, any carers/supports required • Other household members that need to use the space including siblings and children. • Consumer transfers and mobility • Location of level entry shower in bathroom • Floor gradient required for drainage • Doorway width requirements • Height of toilet • Placement of grab/handrails • Ventilation needs • Access to taps/basin – knee/toe clearance, height, and fixture type • Seating needs within shower area • Placement of curtain/screen • Storage needs – shower, vanity, towels • Circulation space- for consumer, carers, and their AT (current and future) • Anti-slip but easy to clean floor surface, Lighting needs • Thermoregulation needs • SWEP will not fund relocation of an outside toilet just because it is a separate to the home

<p>Shower base for the formation of a level entry shower</p> 	<p>A prefabricated insert often made of reinforced fiberglass that has a waste</p> <p>The shower base is not visible when installed and is covered with vinyl or tiles</p> <p>The shower recess allows for level entry without a hob impeding access</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be an expensive option as the existing floor is often partially removed to enable the recessed shower base to be installed and the needed gradient across whole bathroom floor • More complex for bathrooms with concrete floors • Consider floor gradients, locations of other items in bathroom, proximity of shower to doorways • Storage of shower and how the space will be used by the consumer and others that live in the home. • Electrical considerations • If Handheld shower can reach toilet- plumbing consideration • Room for consumer and any carers, any required grab rails, • Consider AT needs- current and future • Consider type and location of waste- e.g., centre waste vs strip grate
<p>HM02 Minor access modifications up to \$2,000</p>		
<p>Slip resistant application</p> 	<p>Application to a surface which alters the slip resistance properties</p> <p>Items such as grip strips. non-slip paint and coating are included.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check R or P Rating for slip resistant properties of selected product as per the SA HB 198:2014 Guide to the specification and testing of slip resistance of pedestrian surfaces • Consider lifespan and maintenance to maintain product properties • Consider the product being fit for purpose as there are many variations available. This includes for internal and external usage.

<p>Safety slip resistant flooring</p> 	<p>Safety slip resistant flooring is textured creating an added grip Often designed for heavy duty use with a thickness much higher than standard flooring and suitable for assistive technology items such as shower commodes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be suitable for both dry and wet areas • Can be purchased in bright colours and patterns to improve visibility
<p>Door fittings</p> 	<p>The item(s) must be considered as specialised hardware that assist in door operation, either through manual or power methods</p> <p>May also include fittings to maintain safety such as safety hinges to lift the door away</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consumer ability to operate to open, close and lock (from inside and outside) • Ease of use for carers and support staff • Is replacement required after use (e.g., Ross Safety hinges) • Clearance for consumer and any equipment he/she uses

<p>Single platform step modification</p> 	<p>Any modification to a rise of 190mm or less</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AS 1428.1(2021) maximum pre-existing rise of 190mm • Use footprint of consumer and mobility aid to ensure size is appropriate to meet consumer functional needs • Height of modified step that consumers can manage • Progressive conditions and long-term needs • Consider need for handrails and kerbing • Nose edging and vision needs
<p>Threshold and Step Ramp</p>  	<p>Threshold ramp up to 35mm total raise height.</p> <p>Step ramp modification for a rise between 35mm to 190mm.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AS 1428.1(2021) requirements for threshold and step ramps. • Footprint of consumer, mobility aid and carer to guide size of ramp required. • Height of modified step that consumers can manage • Progressive conditions and long-term needs • Kerbing and handrail need & height
<p>HM04 Miscellaneous non-structural modifications up to \$2,000</p>		
<p>Light switch & General Power Outlet repositioning</p>  	<p>The design of light switches & General Power Outlets (GPOs) can be varied with some properties having existing devices with large switches which are suitable to consumer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ease of access for consumer • Needs of other household members/carers access • Distance from water/plumbing (check with electrician) • Style of switch – e.g. toggle, rocker, etc. • Must be installed by a registered electrician and clinician to discuss location of power switches in relation to water sources • http://www.build.com.au/distance-between-water-and-power-points <p>GPO's can be funded with a bidet, stair-lift, or with repositioning of light switches</p>

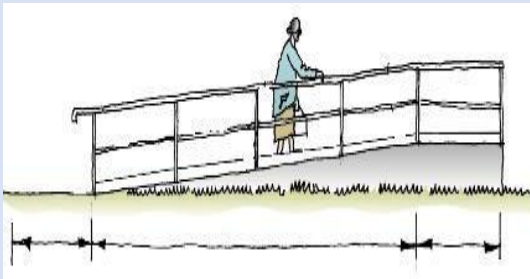
<p>Shower base insert</p> 	<p>Shower base inserts are custom made and designed on most occasions to lift the floor of the shower to the height of the shower lip (hob)</p> <p>Often made of plastic, rubber, or wood</p> <p>Slip resistant surface</p> <p>May include a small threshold ramp</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The type of surface on the current shower base, e.g., tiles, plastic, fiberglass • The size of shower, current gradient in shower • There are many variations in the design which impact on the gradient of water flow • Drainage holes required • Slip-resistant surface required • Needs of other people that use the shower • Needs of carers/Supports • Cleaning & maintenance including manual handling of shower base. How easy is it to lift in/out of shower? • AT needs- Use a shower stool, chair, or mobile shower commode? • Will the consumer either: walk into the shower independently Or require greater access as a result of a carer, use of a mobility aid, need for threshold ramp.
<p>HM05 Access modifications up to \$10,000</p>		
<p>Entry widened</p> 	<p>To allow essential home access of consumer with their mobility aid or other equipment.</p> <p>Involves creating larger door frame and/or door</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structural issues of property – supporting or free-standing walls • Width of consumer and mobility aid • Custom vs. standard sized doors • Type of door – hinged vs. sliding • Mounting – swing in/out/both • Need for automatic door opener

HM09 Complex home modifications- access over \$10000,

HM05 Access modifications up to \$10,000

Ramp- greater than 190mm rise

Ramp: rise greater than 190mm, max gradient 1:14



It is strongly recommended that all ramp modifications comply with Australian Standard 1428.1 (2021) (AS1428.1) as there may be a safety risk associated with ramp modifications that do not comply with AS 1428.1

Although AS1428.1 specifically excludes work to private residences, it is the most relevant standard in relation to the work carried out by the SWEF in the funding of home modifications for people with a disability

- What is the most suitable entrance to modify
- Refer to AS 1428.1(2021) for requirements dimensions, handrails, kerbing, landings, and gradients
- Consider all residents of a household (including children) and any visiting workers on the premises
- Footprint of consumer, mobility aid and carer to be considered.
- Progressive conditions and long-term needs
- **Note:** All ramps that do not comply with AS 1428.1(2021) require a **RED** Practitioner to validate the prescription. When a Red Prescriber validates a ramp that is **not** to AS 1428.1 (2021) they are doing so as a result of:
compliance with AS 1428.1 means that the functional needs of the Consumer specified in the application will not be met **and/or**
compliance with AS 1428.1 cannot be made due to the nature of and/or existing improvements at the Property **and/or**
compliance with AS 1428.1 would impose undue hardship on the Consumer
- A Red Prescriber is required to understand the implications of validating a ramp that is not compliant and has ensured that the homeowner and/or Consumer is aware of the risks

Step modifications for two or more platform steps



Any modifications to steps which changes it to multiple platform steps with a >190mm in rise total

- Footprint of consumer and mobility aid to be used
- Height of modified step and consumers ability to manage- current and in future. Consider progressive conditions
- Includes handrails
- Kerbing and nose edging

Example Working Drawings

