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T&K Contractors, Inc. / Design ■ Build ■ Remodeling

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What in the World is Universal Design?

Universal Design is often invisible in a home but makes it safer, more comfortable and extends the time you can live in your home. T&K Contractors is proud to be one of the innovative remodelers bringing Universal Design to homeowners in the New Jersey Area. This month, we share information about Universal Design, what it means to you, and how it can be made an integral part of your remodeled or newly built home:

How is Universal Design different from just making accommodations for elderly or disabled homeowners?

Although assistive features such as ramps and grab bars can be included in Universal Design, the focus is much broader. Sometimes Universal Design is called "design for all," "inclusive design," and "life-span design." With Universal Design, we create spaces that are usable and effective for everyone, no matter what their ages or physical abilities. Moreover, it recognizes that beauty is as important as function so a home that incorporates Universal Design will be pleasing to the eye and appealing to people in every stage of life.

What are some examples of Universal Design I might want to include in my home?

The Center for Universal Design has established certain principles that are common to all homes with Universal Design including flexibility, simplicity, comfort, and ease. At T&K Contractors, we've been able to incorporate these ideas into our clients' homes in ways that both improve livability and enhance beauty. Consider the following practical changes:

- Easily activated faucets using levers or automatic features help both those young and old.
- No-step entry means no one needs to use stairs to get into your home or into its main rooms.
- Wide doorways not only let wheelchairs pass, they make it easy to move big things in and out of the house.
- Wide hallways enable everyone and everything to move more easily from room to room.
- Extra floor space gives everyone some extra elbow room. Plus, people in wheelchairs will have more space to turn.
- Kitchen counters at multiple heights to accommodate people of all ages and abilities.



Remember, the whole concept of a Universally Designed home is that it works well for everyone, young or old, abled or disabled, and all the folks in between.

If you'd like to know more about Universal Design and how it can improve your home and lifestyle, call T&K Contractors



Home Maintenance Tip: Dryer Safety

Inspecting your dryer vents can help prevent accidental deaths and injuries due to fire and carbon monoxide poisoning. So take a moment this month to clean your dryer vent and exhaust duct. Also check the outside dryer vent while the dryer is operating to make sure exhaust air is escaping. If it is not, the vent or the exhaust duct may be blocked. To remove a blockage in the exhaust path, it may be necessary to disconnect the exhaust duct from the dryer. Remember to reconnect the ducting to the dryer and outside vent before using the dryer again.

See you next month!

Anthony & Sal

Faucet photo courtesy Kohler Co.