

Universal Design for Better Living

Better Tools for Everyday Tasks



Products with universal design features:

- Make tasks easier for everyone.
- Accommodate a wide range of abilities.
- Continue to meet the needs of people as their abilities change.
- Are comfortable, convenient, and safe.
- Are attractive and appealing.
- Are *not* just for people with disabilities.

Compare traditional and universal designs. Which would you prefer to use?

	Traditional Design	Universal Design
Yard & Garden Tools Kneeling pads/benches	Cushioned kneeling pad. Although comfortable to use, after kneeling down, hard to get up to standing position. (Menards, \$3)	Gardening bench with tool storage & cushioned kneeling pad. When turned upside down, legs become handles to help push from kneeling to standing position. (Menards, \$10)
Rain gauges	Small rain gauge with small print. Difficult to read from distance. (Wal-Mart, \$2)	Large rain gauge with large print. Easy to read from distance. (Wal-Mart, \$4)
Garden trowels	Wooden-handle trowel. Becomes slippery, rough & splintered with use. (Menards, \$3)	Soft-grip trowel (Fiskars). Cushioned, non-slip grip comfortable to use. (Menards, \$4)
Garden pruners	Standard pruner. Hard handles cause blisters after short use. (Wal-Mart, \$7)	Comfort-grip pruner (Fiskars). Cushioned handles comfortable to use. (Wal-Mart, \$9)

Shop Tools
Screwdrivers

Mousetraps

Bathroom Tools
Toilet tissue holders

Kitchen Tools
Kitchen timers

Spatulas/scrapers

Vegetable peelers

Measuring cups

Measuring spoons

Pot holders

Traditional Design

Set of single screwdrivers. Takes up a lot of space to store many screwdrivers. (Menards, \$5)

Standard mousetrap. Takes two hands to precariously set trap; messy to empty. (Wal-Mart, \$1)

Spring-loaded tissue holder. Two hands & coordination required to remove spring & replace roll of toilet tissue. (Wal-Mart, \$1)

Small timer with small lettering. Difficult to see from distance. (Bed, Bath & Beyond, \$5)

Wooden handle spatula. Uncomfortable to grip. (Discount store, \$1)

Standard peeler. Small metal handle slippery & uncomfortable to grip. (K-mart \$3)

Measuring cup, small lettering. Difficult to see measurements. (Wal-Mart, \$1)

Standard measuring spoons. Markings difficult to read; thin handles difficult to grip. (K-Mart, \$1)

Standard cloth pot holder. Easy to burn fingers, especially if pot holder gets wet. (Wal-Mart, \$0.50)

Universal Design

6-way screwdriver set. Six types of screwdriver bits stored in one set. (Menards, \$4)

Quick-set mousetrap. Easy to set and empty with one hand. (Wal-Mart, \$2)

L-shaped tissue holder. Roll of toilet tissue easy to change with one hand. (Bed, Bath & Beyond, \$10)

Large timer with large lettering. Easy to see across room. (Dynamic Living, \$18)

Soft-grip spatula. Comfortable to grip. (Bed, Bath & Beyond, \$7)

Soft-handle peeler (Good Grips). Cushioned handle comfortable to grip. (Bed, Bath & Beyond, \$6)

Easy-read measuring cup. Can see accurate measurements when cup sitting on counter; don't have to hold at eye level. (Bed, Bath & Beyond, \$5)

Large-print measuring spoons. Easy-to-read measurements; thicker handles easier to grip. (K-Mart, \$1.50)

Silicon pot holder. Non-slip surface for sure grip; withstands very high temperature. (Bed, Bath & Beyond, \$7)

<p>Living & Sleeping Area Tools</p> <p>Dusters</p> <p>Scissors</p> <p>Office Tools</p> <p>Calculators</p> <p>Staple-removers</p> <p>Ink pens</p>	<p>Traditional Design</p> <p>Short-handle duster. Short handle limits reach. (Target, \$3)</p>	<p>Universal Design</p> <p>Extension-handle duster that can reach all areas. (Wal-Mart, \$7)</p>
	<p>Standard scissors. Hand strength required to open & close blades; handles have small finger holes with no cushion. (Office Depot, \$2)</p>	<p>Spring-action scissors (Fiskars). Spring action reduces hand strength needed to open blades; large handles have cushion grips; use with either hand. (Target, \$13)</p>
	<p>Calculator with small buttons. Low contrast & small display make numbers difficult to see; small buttons difficult to touch accurately. (Wal-Mart, \$1.50)</p>	<p>Calculator with large buttons. High contrast & large display easy to read; large buttons easier to enter numbers accurately. (Wal-Mart, \$3)</p>
	<p>Standard staple-remover. Difficult to pinch together to use; often tears paper. (Office Depot, \$1)</p>	<p>Easy-slide staple-remover. Removed with one easy motion without tearing paper. (Office Depot, \$2)</p>
	<p>Standard ball-point pen with separate cap. Thin pen uncomfortable to grip; cap easy to lose. (Wal-Mart, \$0.15)</p>	<p>Uni-ball pen, click on-off, thick black line easier for people with low vision to read what they've written. Larger pen easier to grip. (Wal-Mart, \$1.30)</p>

Additional information

Iowa State University Extension Web site
 "Universal Design and Home Accessibility"
www.extension.iastate.edu/universaldesign

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