

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 persons with disabilities.

**Compare design features in the two columns below.
Which product do you prefer to use?**

Item	Traditional Design	Universal Design
<i>Products for bathroom</i>		
toilet tissue holder	two hands and coordination are required to remove spring and replace roll of toilet paper	roll is snapped into place using one hand
shampoo/soap dispenser	both hands are needed to open and hold bottles	soap is dispensed with push of a button; removes clutter
<i>Products for living /sleeping areas</i>		
remote	buttons are small; labels are difficult to see	large buttons with good contrast are easy to distinguish by sight or touch
lamp	control may be hard to reach or operate	control located within easy reach; lamp is turned off by touch
<i>Kitchen tools</i>		
measuring cups and spoons	thin metal handles are difficult to grip; markings are difficult to see	easy to grip, large plastic handles; large markings with good contrast are easy to see
vegetable peeler and paring knife	small metal/wood handle is uncomfortable to grip	handle with soft cushioned grip fits hand better

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Item	Traditional Design	Universal Design
Cleaning tools		
duster	short handle limits reach	handle extends to reach all areas
dustpan	short handle; person must bend to use	long handle eliminates bending
Home office products		
phone	large receiver is difficult to hold; small buttons are difficult to see and push	handle fits hand; large easy-to-read numbers and large buttons; memory for personal & emergency numbers; amplified volume option
staple remover	pinch fingers together to use	staple is removed with one easy motion
scissors	hand strength is required to open and close blades; handles have small finger holes with no cushion	spring action reduces hand strength needed to open blades; large handles have cushion grips; use with either hand
wall clock	small numbers with low contrast are difficult to see	bold black numbers and hands on white background are easier to see
Outdoor tools		
garden trowel	wood handle uncomfortable to grip; becomes slippery, rough, and splintered with use	handle with cushioned grip, non-slip material is more comfortable to use
rain gauge	small numbers with no contrast are difficult to read	large numbers and bright colored float are easily read from a distance
rake	straight wood handle is uncomfortable to grip; causes back strain	adjustable height, angled handle with cushion grips provides better body fit; reduces strain

Iowa State University Extension has not endorsed, recommended, nor certified any of these commercial products or devices as safe or effective. Other companies provide similar products. Product information and price quotes in this exhibit are subject to change.

For Information on:

- Sources and prices of items in display.
- Publications on universal design and home accessibility.
- Monthly Home Planning Workshops (building a new home or remodeling).
- The **Iowa AgrAbility Project**: a joint effort of Iowa State University Extension and the Easter Seal Society of Iowa's Farm Family Rehabilitation (FaRM) Program to help farm families affected by disabilities remain in their homes and on their farms.

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