



Consumer Factsheet:

Arranging Home Modifications in Victoria.

Many homes are not designed for older people or for people with disabilities. Do you find it hard to

1. Climb the stairs to your front door?
2. Lower and raise yourself on and off the toilet?
3. Get in and out of the shower recess?

You are not alone!!! These tasks may be made easier with the use of some simple home modifications, which are changes to your home that can make it safer for you to do things.

What do I do if I want to modify my home?

To have your home modified can take a long time and be costly. It is important that you find out your needs and legal obligations prior to having someone modify your home. The following steps may assist:

1. Have a home assessment by an occupational therapist to determine what changes may help you at home. It is important to know if you are eligible for any programmes, such as the Department of Veterans Affairs, Home and Community Care programmes, or if the person needing the changes is covered by insurance.

2. Contact a home modification provider in your area and arrange for them to come to your home. This may be a local builder or a service that specialises in modifying homes for older people or people with disabilities. The occupational therapist may have more information about this. Make sure you agree on the scope of work and get a written quote. To make sure you know your rights Consumer Affairs Victoria has a booklet about it called "Building and Renovating – A Consumer Guide." Copies of this are available from their website www.consumer.vic.gov.au or call them on 1300 558 181.



Things to consider

1. If you don't speak English very well or are arranging an appointment for a non-English speaking person, let the occupational therapist know. You may like to have an interpreter. The occupational therapist may be able to help with this.
2. Speak to your occupational therapist about any equipment that could help. It may not be necessary to change the house.

Checklist

- Find an occupational therapist in your local area to arrange a home assessment. For public health occupational therapists, contact your local hospital or community health centre. For private occupational therapists, contact OT AUSTRALIA Victoria on (03) 9481 6866.
- The Master Builders Association has a list of builders who do Adaptable Alterations. You can call them for a copy of the list on 1800 451 393 or go to their website at www.mba.asn.au
- To have a look at some of the equipment that can help you at home contact the Independent Living Centre in your state. The Independent Living Centre also has a list of builders who have completed the Professional Certificate in Accessible Building. You can go to their website www.ilcaustralia.org or call them on 1300 885 886
- For any other health inquiries, or to look up other services and information, please look at www.commcarelink.health.gov.au or call

Commonwealth Carelink Centre	1800 052 222
Carelink TTY	1800 555 677
Speech-to-Speech	1800 555 727
Translation Information Service	131 450

