

THE PRINCIPLES OF UNIVERSAL DESIGN

1 **EQUITABLE USE**

The design is useful and marketable to people with diverse abilities.

Powered door with sensors is convenient for all shoppers, especially if hands are full.



2 **FLEXIBILITY IN USE**

The design accommodates a wide range of individual preferences and abilities.

Large-grip scissors accommodates use with either hand and allows alternation between the two in highly repetitive tasks.



3 **SIMPLE AND INTUITIVE USE**

Use of the design is easy to understand, regardless of the user's experience, knowledge, language skills, or current concentration level.

Assembly instructions for imported furniture eliminate translation problems by providing clear illustrations without text.



4 **PERCEPTIBLE INFORMATION**

The design communicates necessary information effectively to the user, regardless of ambient conditions or the user's sensory abilities.

Modified round thermostat incorporates enlarged visual information, tactile lettering, edge texture, and audible click steps at 2-degree temperature intervals.



5 **TOLERANCE FOR ERROR**

The design minimizes hazards and the adverse consequences of accidental or unintended actions.

"Undo" option allows computer user to correct mistakes without penalty.



6 **LOW PHYSICAL EFFORT**

The design can be used efficiently and comfortably and with a minimum of fatigue.

Door lever can be operated with closed fist or elbow, unlike door knobs.



7 **SIZE AND SPACE FOR APPROACH AND USE**

Appropriate size and space is provided for approach, reach, manipulation, and use regardless of user's body size, posture, or mobility.

Wide gate at subway station accommodates wheelchair users as well as commuters with packages or luggage.



It must be acknowledged that the principles of universal design in no way comprise all criteria for good design, only universally usable design. Certainly, other factors are important, such as aesthetics, cost, safety, gender and cultural appropriateness, and these aspects should be taken into consideration as well when designing.

THE CENTER FOR UNIVERSAL DESIGN

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Major funding provided by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research