



# FEATURES THAT MAKE AN APARTMENT SENIOR-FRIENDLY





# INTRODUCTION



As people age, we value independence, safety, and comfort more than ever. Yet finding a rental that meets those needs can be difficult. For older adults, that means thoughtful design choices like wide doorways and well-lit rooms that reinforce independence.



# 5 Features That Make An Apartment Senior-Friendly

## **Barrier-Free Entry and Mobility**

Smooth, step-free entryways are safe to navigate. Look out for these features:

- Zero-step entries make entrances wheelchair and walker-friendly
- Ramps or gentle slopes ease movement for all mobility levels
- Even flooring prevents trips between rooms
- Covered entries protect from slips during wet or snowy days

## **Safe Floors and Lighting**

Floors that are coming off or uneven pose a safety risk. Look out for these features:

- Non-slip flooring across all high-traffic areas
- Smooth transitions between rooms without raised edges
- Motion-sensor lighting in hallways and bathrooms
- Adjustable lighting levels to suit different times of day



## **Adapted Bathrooms and Kitchens**

Bathrooms and kitchens are high-use areas where accessibility can't be compromised. Look out for these features:

- Walk-in showers with handheld showerheads
- Grab bars beside toilets and inside showers
- Lever-style faucets and comfort-height fixtures
- Pull-out shelves and lower storage cabinets for easy reach

## **Universal Design and Technology Features**

As vision and fine motor skills decrease, smart layouts improve quality of life. Look out for these features:

- Wide doorways and open layouts
- Smart lighting and temperature controls
- Emergency alert and intercom systems
- Space to install handrails or assistive devices





## **Comfort, Community, and Low-Maintenance Living**

Senior-friendly living goes beyond the apartment itself. Your surroundings can bring your joy and comfort. Look out for these features:

- Landscaped walking paths with benches for rest
- Accessible parking close to entrances
- Outdoor gathering areas or gardens
- On-site maintenance and snow removal



# Simple Ways to Make Your Home More Accessible

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While the above rental unit makes a big difference, your choice with furniture and everyday use items also make senior-living more accessible. Here are some recommendations for you:

- Choose furniture with rounded edges
- Replace traditional knobs with lever-style handles
- Use adjustable lighting or dimmer switches
- Keep walkways and hallways clear of clutter
- Add grab bars near stairs or seating areas
- Pick easy-to-clean, low-maintenance materials
- Arrange frequently used items at reachable heights

At Barr Developments, we design every rental project to be accessible and enhance your quality of life. If you're looking for rentals in Kingston or Amherstview, check out our listings [here](#).