

Summary of the **AWARE** Manual For Sustainable Accessible Living

Franklin County and the City of Columbus are adopting the **AWARE Green/Universal Design Manual** as the performance standard for the construction and renovation of federally-funded residential projects. **AWARE** stands for:

- Accessible
- Water Conservation
- Air Quality
- Resource Conscious
- Energy Efficient

The **AWARE** Manual was designed to achieve Enterprise Green Communities Standards (www.greencommunitiesonline.org).

The **AWARE** Manual will provide new and existing housing stock to residents of Franklin County and Columbus that is healthier, more accessible, resource conscious, and environmentally friendly. The City and County are committed to promoting **AWARE** green and universal design standards of construction throughout Franklin County and Columbus.

The **AWARE** Manual promotes:

Universal Design Accessibility Standards

All AWARE standard homes will include certain accessibility features that make the home livable for a variety of abilities. Some of the features that may be found in an AWARE home are listed below.

Healthier Homes

- Testing and mitigating radon gas, if necessary, (a main cause of lung cancer)
- Active/forced or passive air systems to bring fresh air into the home
- Ventilation to remove moisture, which causes mold and mildew
- Integrated pest control using non-chemical methods
- Low/No VOC products:
 - Paints
 - Adhesives
 - Carpet
 - Floor tiles and sheet goods
 - Bathroom and kitchen cabinets

More Accessible Homes

- No-step entry (making it wheelchair accessible)
- Wider doorways and halls (making them wheelchair accessible)

- Wider stairways (for future installation of a stair lift)
- 1st floor bath and bedroom (making home accessible to all)
- Providing floor space and fixtures to accommodate wheelchair access in bathrooms and kitchens
- 1st floor laundry (accessible to all)
- Lever handle faucets (easy operation for all)
- Lever handle door locks/latches (easy operation for all)
- Wood blocking in the walls (for future installation of grab bars)
- Positioning the height of wall outlets, switches, thermostats, door locksets and cabinet handles (accessible to all)

Resource and Energy Conscious Homes

- 90% + gas forced air furnaces
- Water-saving plumbing fixtures
 - commodes
 - faucets
 - shower heads
- Better house insulation
- Using Energy Star-Rated:
 - Windows and doors
 - Appliances
 - Light fixtures
 - Fans
 - Hot water heaters

Environmentally-Friendly Homes

- Recycling construction waste
- Using recycled materials/products
- Using a detailed framing plan to reduce material waste wood without compromising structural integrity
- Creating a framing order waste factor limit holding the waste material to 10% or less
- Using pre-cut or pre-assembled building systems or methods
- Use materials from renewable resources or agricultural byproducts



Low-flow faucets conserve water and lever handles make opening doors easier for all.



Easy-to-reach cabinets and counter positioning make kitchens more accessible.