

The Corporation of the District of North Vancouver

COUNCIL POLICY

Title	Accessible Design Policy for Multi-Family Housing
Section	Development and Social Planning

POLICY

It is the policy of Council that new multi-family residential development provides basic design features to facilitate building access and useability for people of all ages and abilities, and enhanced features, where appropriate, to facilitate ageing in place and to support people with mobility and/or sensory impairments.

Policy approved on: February 16, 2015 Regular Council

1. Amendment Date: December 6, 2017 Chief Administrative Officer

PROCEDURE

The following procedure is used to implement this policy, but does not form part of the policy. This procedure may be amended from time to time at the discretion of the Chief Administrative Officer.

DEFINITIONS

"Basic Design Features": Features that facilitate building access and useability by all people, regardless of age and abilities.

"Enhanced Design Features": Features that facilitate building access and useability by people with mobility and sensory impairments. May also include infrastructure for future installations.

"Ground-oriented Multi-family": multi-family dwelling units of one or more storeys (including stacked townhouses), each with an exterior primary entrance to grade.

"Multi-family Apartments": Single level multi-family dwelling units. Where multi-family apartments are co-located with other uses, such as commercial in a mixed-use development, this policy provides direction for the residential component of the development only.

"Seniors": People over the age of 65.

APPLICATION

- 1. This policy applies to multi-family rezoning applications and form and character for multi-family development permit applications proposing 4 or more new multi-family apartments units or 4 or more new ground-oriented multi-family units.
- 2. All units designed as enhanced accessible units must also include basic accessible design elements.
- 3. Accessible Design Features (outlined in Attachment 1) are to be provided as follows:

TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT	BASIC ACCESSIBLE DESIGN FEATURES TARGETS	ENHANCED ACCESSIBLE DESIGN FEATURES TARGETS
Ground-Oriented Multi-family	Approximately 15% of the total number of units (where feasible)	Explore provision of enhanced accessible design features including infrastructure to allow for future adaptability
Multi-family apartments	100% of units	Minimum of 5% of units
Multi-family apartments intended for seniors (S)	100% of units	Minimum of 50% of units Additional enhanced accessible design features, where specified (S), apply to units: in buildings intended for seniors in any building specifically intended for people with disabilities.
Multi-family apartments intended for people with sensory and/or mobility impairments (S)	100% of units	 100% of units Additional enhanced accessible design features, where specified (S), apply to units: in buildings intended for seniors in any building specifically intended for people with disabilities.

- 4. Where required accessible design features apply to only one bathroom or one only bedroom within a unit, these elements are to be applied to the same bathroom and the same bedroom selected in all cases.
- 5. Where site specific conditions present unique challenges, alternate solutions can be considered which achieve purpose/ intent of this policy.

- 6. At the Preliminary Planning Application, Detailed Planning Application and the Building Permit stages, applicants are to provide the District with confirmation that the project fulfills the objectives of the District's Accessible Design Policy for Multi-family Housing. At the Detailed Application, the applicant is expected to provide the Accessible Design Checklist (Attachment 2). At the Building Permit stage they are expected to provide floor plans for the accessible units.
- 7. Property managers and strata corporations are encouraged to take measures to ensure that, to the greatest extent possible, units with enhanced accessible design features and accessible parking spaces are reserved for people with sensory and/or mobility impairments.
- 8. Off street accessible parking spaces are to be provided for any developments that include enhanced accessible units as follows:

Total number required parking spaces:	Total number of accessible parking spaces to be provided,
	inclusive of spaces required by
	the Zoning Bylaw:
1 - 25	2
26 - 50	4
52 - 100	6
101 -150	8
151 - 200	10
201 - 250	12
251 - 300	14
301 - 350	16
351- 400	18
401 - 450	20
450+	4.5% of all parking provided

NOTE: This policy should not be used as a substitute for existing applicable building codes and other regulations. The development applicant is responsible for compliance with all codes, bylaws, and other regulations whether described in this policy or not.

AUTHORITY TO ACT

Delegated to Staff

 Basic and Enhanced Accessible Design Features
 Accessible Design Checklist **Attachments:**

BASIC AND ENHANCED ACCESSIBLE DESIGN FEATURES

Attachment 1

Building Access and Main Entrances

	Item	Basic (B) Accessible Design Features	Enhanced (E) Accessible Design Features	Applicability of Accessible Design to Ground-Oriented Multi-Family	Purpose/ Intent	Compliance (Y/N)
1-B	Unobstructed access to main building entrances	 An accessible path of travel is to be provided: from the street and private parking area to at least one main entrance from the main entrance to all suite entry doors (unless prohibited by the terrain or unusual site conditions) from the main entrance to the elevator from the main entrance to each common amenity area (e.g. recreational, storage and laundry facilities, mailbox areas, garbage/ recycling areas) 		Yes – The accessible path applies to the building main entrance, if units are accessed via a corridor or passageway, and/or to a unit entrance of those identified ground floor level entrance ground-oriented m/fs that can be easily accessed without the use of stairs.	To enable a person using a stroller, cane, walker, wheelchair, or trolley to readily access a building	
2-B	Accessible path of travel	The accessible path of travel is to be:		Yes – The accessible path to unit entrance applies to those identified ground floor level entrance ground-oriented m/fs that can be easily accessed without the use of stairs.	To enable a person using a stroller, cane, walker, wheelchair, or trolley to readily access a building	
3-B/E	Lighting, weather protection, intercom, address numbering	 Building entrances in accessible paths of travel are to: provide weather protection with a min. 152cm x152cm (60in x 60in) canopy over the main entrance and door-phone. have an intercom system installed with user functions located no more than 1375mm (54in) above paved area. have good lighting outside & inside building entrance - 100 lux have mailbox units installed no more than 1375 mm (54 in) above the finished paved area. have address numbering that is glare free, approx. 60 in above finished floor, highly contrasting (color) and sized as follows depending on distance from the street: At 0-15 m from road, numbering are to be 10cm (4 in). At 15-20 m numbering are to be 20cm (8 in). 		Yes – Basic accessible design applies to identified ground-oriented m/f unit entrances and main building entrance if included in the project design. May have door- bell instead of intercom system.	Provide shelter to any person while unlocking the front door, and easy entry to assist the frail, or persons with stroller, trolley, wheelchair, and visually impaired	

Item	Basic (B) Accessible Design Features	Enhanced (E) Acce Design Features	essible	Applicability to Ground- Oriented Multi-Family	Purpose/ Intent	Compliance (Y/N)
4-B Entrance door assembly and operation	Door assemblies in the accessible path of travel are to: • provide a clear opening width of no less than 850mm 1 door leaf • have the active leaf providing a clear opening of no le (34in) (in a doorway with multiple leaves) • have power-operated doors, functioning for passage • be operable by devices that do not require tight grass • have a push plate or latch releasing device.	ess than 850 mm in both directions		Yes – Applies to identified ground-oriented m/f unit entrances and main building entrance if included in the project design.	To permit easier entry by a person in wheelchair, stroller, trolley (for moving furniture into/out of building).	

Building Access and Main Entrances – Continued

5-B	Entry door clearance	 Doorways in accessible paths of travel are to have a clear and level area on either side of the door. Doorway thresholds in accessible paths of travel are to be no more than 13 mm (0.5in) above the floor and bevelled. The entry foyer shall have a non-slip surface. 	Yes – Applies to identified ground-oriented m/f unit entrances and main building entrance if included in the project design.	To permit easier entry by person in wheelchair, stroller, trolley (for moving furniture etc).
6-B	Tactile warning strip on stairs	Provide tactile warning strips at the top of stairways, on all emergency stairs, and at landings intercepted by other paths of travel.	Yes	To assist visually impaired with way-finding
7-B	Colour contrast	Provide contrasting colours on signs, address numbers, corridor walls and unit entries.	Yes	To assist visually impaired with way-finding

Corridors and Circulation

8-B	Corridor and	Corridors and passageways providing access to unit		
	passageway	entrances and common facilities should:	Downsit makility of these with	
	width		Permit mobility of those with	
		be no less than 1220mm (48in) in width and	walkers and wheelchairs,	

	Item	Basic (B) Accessible	Enhanced (E) Accessible	Applicability to Ground- Oriented Multi-Family	Purpose/ Intent	Compliance (Y/N)
		Design Features	Design Features	·		
		 provide a clear area no less than 1500mm x 1500mm (60 in) adjacent to the elevator entrance at intervals no more than 10m (394in). Corridor doors installed in series are to be separated by space no less than 1220mm (48 in) plus the width of any door swinging into the separating space. See also 4-B and 5-B above for door assembly and clearance in accessible paths of travel. 	a	Yes – Applies to identified ground-oriented m/f unit corridors and passageways, if included in the project design.	strollers, trolleys for moving furniture etc.	
9-E	Access to upper levels - Applies to identified ground- oriented m/f units only		Explore opportunities to facilitate future adaptation for a personal elevator or stair lift.	Yes – Applies to identified ground-oriented m/f units only.	To facilitate access by a person in a wheelchair to upper floors in a town house unit	

Item	Basic (B) Accessible	Enhanced (E) Accessible	Applicability to Ground-	Purpose/ Intent	Compliance (Y/N)
	Design Features	Design Features	Oriented Multi-Family		

Residential Unit – Entry Door

10-B	Unit entry	Unit entry doors should:		To permit easier entry
	door	have a clear opening width of no less than 850mm (34in)		by a person in
	assembly	be operable by devices, such as lever door handles, that do not	Yes – Also refer to item 4 and 5	wheelchair, walker or
		require tight grasping or twisting of the wrist	above.	with a stroller or trolley
		operate when a force of not more than 22 N is applied at the		into the unit.
		handle, push plate or latch releasing device		
		Where the threshold is not flush with the floor, the difference in		
		level is to be not more than 13 mm and shall be bevelled.		
11-B	Unit entry	Door assemblies for unit entry are to have a clear and level area*:		
	door	when the door swing is away from this area, not less than 1220		
	clearance	mm (48 in) long by a width equal to the door assembly width	Yes – Also refer to item 4 and 5	To permit easier entry
		plus not less than 300 mm (12 in) of clear space beside the	above.	by a person in
		latching jamb of the door		wheelchair, walker or
		when the door swing is toward this area, not less than 1500		with a stroller or trolley
		mm (60 in) long by a width equal to the door assembly width		into the unit.
		plus not less than 600 mm (24 in) clear space beside the		
1		latching jamb of the door		

	Basic (B) Accessible Design Features	Enhanced (E) Accessible Design Features	Applicability to Ground- Oriented Multi-Family	Purpose/ Intent	Compliance (Y/N)
	* Alternative solutions (such as power door installation) will considered for potential equivalency.	be			

Residential Unit - Bathroom

12-B	Bathroom entry door assembly	At least one bathroom is to: • provide a clear opening width of no less than 800mm (32in) • be operable by devices, such as lever door handles, that do not require tight grasping or twisting of the wrist Where the threshold is not flush with the floor, the difference in level is to be 13mm (0.5in) in height or less and bevelled.		Yes – Applies to at least one bathroom on the ground floor level of the identified ground-oriented m/f units.	To enable a person in a wheelchair to gain access to and from the bathroom
13-B	Bathroom door clearance	 Door assemblies for the above bathroom shall: open away from (or outside) the bathroom area have a clear and level area of*: not less than 1220 mm (48 in) long by a width equal to the door assembly width plus not less than 300 mm (12 in) clear space beside the latching jamb of the door. *Except where a pocket door is provided as an alternative to a swing door. The space under the sink (see 24-E) may be used towards meeting clearance requirements. 		Yes – Applies to at least one bathroom on the ground floor level of the identified ground-oriented m/f units.	To enable a person in a wheelchair to gain access to and from the bathroom
14-E	Pocket doors		 A minimum of one bathroom is to provide a pocket door. Doors providing access are to have heavy duty hardware and D-shaped handles. 	Yes – Applies to at least one bathroom on the ground floor level of the identified ground-oriented m/f units.	To facilitate wheelchair access to small bathroom spaces

Residential Unit - Bathroom Continued

15-B	Bathroom space	 At least one bathroom is to have enough floor space to be 'minimally accessible' per the following: A clear dimension from the front edge of the toilet to the facing wall is to be a min. of 800mm (32in). Space from the front edge of the bathtub to the centre of the toilet is to be a min. 508mm (20in). Clear floor area in front of the sink/lavatory is to be a minimum of 760mm (30in) wide by 1220mm (48in) deep centred on the sink/lavatory. 	Yes – Applies to at least one bathroom on the ground floor level of the identified ground-oriented m/f units.	To enable a person in a wheelchair to use the toilet	
16-B	Bathroom flooring	Slip resistant flooring – material as recommended by the applicant's architect.	Yes – Applies to at least one bathroom of the identified ground-oriented m/f units.	To reduce risk of slipping	
17-B	Bathroom wall reinforcement	Reinforcement provided in wall assemblies adjacent to a toilet* and bathtub or shower are to accommodate the future installation of vertical, horizontal or diagonal grab		To permit installation of grab bars	

	Item	Basic (B) Accessible En	Enhanced (E) Accessible	Applicability to Ground- Oriented Multi-Family	Purpose/ Intent	Compliance (Y/N)
		Design Features	Design Features	Offented Multi-Family		
		bars or towel bars and such reinforcement should provide		Yes – Applies to at least one		
		sufficient support to the bars so they can resist a vertica horizontal load of not less than 1.3 kiloNewtons (kN). *In at least one bathroom, the toilet is to be located next a reinforced wall for future grab bar installation.	l or	bathroom on the ground floor level of the identified ground-oriented m/f units.		
8-B	Adjustable height shower	At least one bathroom can accommodate an adjustable height shower head or hand held shower head on adjustable bracket.		Yes – Applies to at least one ground floor level bathroom of the identified ground-oriented m/f units.	To enable sit down bathing	
9-E	Pressure and temperature control valves		Pressure balanced tub and shower valves should minimize risk of scalding (maximum water temperature of approximately 49° C is suggested).	Yes – Applies to at least one bathroom on the ground floor level of the identified ground-oriented m/f units.	To prevent scalding	
:0-E S)	Tub control valve position		 Tub control valve is to be provided at the outer edge of tub with spout in middle. 	N/A	To permit filling tub without bending or reaching	
_	Bathroom	At least one bathroom is to have lever faucet handles the	ot .			
: I-D	Faucet levers	that do not require tight grasping or twisting.	at			
2-E			A min. of one bathroom is to be		To enable installation of a	
S)	shower		adaptable to facilitate future installation of a wheelchair accessible shower.	N/A	future wheel-in shower	
23-E	Space under sink		A min. of one bathroom is to provide space under sink no less than 81 cm (32 in) wide. This space can also be achieved by providing a removable vanity cabinet.	N/A	To allow a wheelchair to slide under the sink	

⁽S) = Applies only enhanced accessible design units in senior's buildings and units in other buildings that are intended specifically for people with disabilities.

Item	Basic (B) Accessible	Enhanced (E) Accessible	Applicability to Ground-	Purpose/ Intent	Compliance (Y/N)
	Design Features	Design Features	Oriented Multi-Family		

Residential Unit - Bedroom

24-	E Space next to	A min. of one bedroom to provide no less than	Yes – Applies to at least 1 bed-	To enable a person in a	
	bed	152cm (60 in) of manoeuvring space between closet & double bed.	room on the ground floor level of identified ground-oriented m/f units	wheelchair to access the bed	

Residential Unit - Kitchen

25-E	Turning		Provide 152cm (60 in) turning radius in the	Yes – Applies to the kitchen of	To enable sufficient space	
	radius		kitchen (centre islands may not work).	identified ground-oriented m/f units	for wheelchair movements	
26-B	Kitchen flooring	Slip resistant flooring – material as recommended by the applicant's architect.		Yes – Applies to the kitchen of identified ground-oriented m/f units	To reduce risk of slipping	
27-B	Adjustable shelves	Kitchen cabinets are to include adjustable shelves		Yes – Applies to the kitchen of identified ground-oriented m/f units	Ergonomic, easier to reach shelves	
28-E (S)	Cupboards – Lowest Shelf		Design cupboards above countertops so that the lowest shelf is no more than 137cm (54 in) above the finished floor.	Yes – Applies to the kitchen of identified ground-oriented m/f units	To enable easy reach by a person with frailties and/or in a wheelchair	
29-E	Cabinet Handles		Provide D-shaped cabinet handles for all kitchen cupboards that are intended to be accessible.	Yes – Applies to the kitchen of identified ground-oriented m/f units	Permit use by persons with disabilities and/ or frailties	
30-B	Faucet handles	All kitchen faucets within units and common amenity areas are to be operable by devices (e.g. "lever" handles) that do not require tight grasping or twisting.		Yes – Applies to the kitchen of identified ground-oriented m/f units	Ergonomic and easier to use by a person with mobility impairments or frailties	
31-E	Future modification (appliances)		Provide sufficient space for future installation of cook top, wall oven and side-by-side fridge/freezer or bottom mounted freezer.	Yes – Applies to the kitchen of identified ground-oriented m/f units	To facilitate future use of appliances by a person in a wheelchair	
32-E	Sink adjacent to stove		Kitchen to be designed so that the range and sink are adjacent or can have a continuous counter space between them.	Yes – Applies to the kitchen of identified ground-oriented m/f units	To enable a person in a wheelchair to move heavy pots between sink & stove	

	Item	Basic (B) Accessible Design Features	Enhanced (E) Accessible Design Features	Applicability to Ground- Oriented Multi-Family	Purpose/ Intent	Compliance (Y/N)
33-E (S)	Countertop & sink height		 Facilitate future ability to remove the sink cabinet and lower the countertop height. Ensure that the kitchen taps are reachable by a person in a wheelchair. 	Yes – Applies to the kitchen of identified ground-oriented m/f units	To enable full use of the sink by a person in a wheelchair	
34-E (S)	Workspace area		Provide an adjustable height workspace min. 81cm (32 in) between sink and stove.	Yes – Applies to the kitchen of identified ground-oriented m/f units	To enable a person in a wheelchair to prepare meals	

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Residential Unit – Electrical

35-E	electrical		Ensure ready and safe access to at least one electrical outlet units.	Yes – Applies to the kitchen of identified ground-oriented m/f	To enable a person in a wheelchair to reach plugs
	outlet			units	for kettle, toaster etc.
36-B	Rocker switches	 All switch types shall be operable with a closed fist (such as rocker switches) 		Yes – Applies to identified ground-oriented m/f units	Ergonomic design
37-B	Telephone jacks	 Include a telephone jack in at least one bedroom Telephone jacks are to be approx. 200 mm or less from an electrical outlet. 		Yes – Applies to identified ground-oriented m/f units	To enable telephone use from bed
38-B	Bedroom – 3-way switch	Three way switched outlet near bed and doorway		Yes – Applies to identified ground-oriented m/f units	Allows a person in bed to control lights and/or fan.
39-E	Electrical switches and outlets		 Controls for the operation of building services or safety devices, including electrical switches, thermostats and intercom switches are to be accessible to a person in a wheelchair, operable with one hand, and be located between 900 mm (35 in) and 1200 mm (47 in) above the floor. Electrical, telephone, cable and data outlets for occupant use are to be located between 455 mm (18 in) and 1200 mm (47 in) above the floor. 	Yes – Applies to identified ground-oriented m/f units	To allow wheelchair users to easily reach
40-B	Visual alarm- installation	Install visual alarm system in all common areas of the building. Wiring for a visual alarm is to be tied into the fire alarm system.		Yes	To alert a person with hearing disabilities of an emergency

	Item	Basic (B) Accessible Design Features	Enhanced (E) Accessible Design Features	Applicability to Ground- Oriented Multi-Family	Purpose/ Intent	Compliance (Y/N)
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41-E	Visual alarm - wiring		Install wiring for visual alarm system in living room and at least one bedroom. Wiring to be connected to the building's fire alarm system.	Yes – Applies to identified ground-oriented m/f units	To enable future installation of a warning alarm for hearing impaired	
42-E (S)	Visual alarm- installation		 Connection for visual alarm signals to be installed in each suite of a building intended for seniors and be appropriately labelled. Visual alarm signals are required for suites intended for use by people with a hearing impairment. A visual alarm system is to be installed in the living room and the accessible bedroom. Wiring for a visual alarm is to be tied into the fire alarm system. When visual signals are required a Strobe light must be installed beside every smoke Alarm. Strobe must have the word "smoke" visible on the lens. 		Strobe or other device for the hearing impaired	

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Residential Unit – Laundry

43-E (S)	Laundry facilities	Provide front loading side-by-side washer/dryer in the unit or in the accessible common area with 122 cm (48 in) for manoeuvring space in front of washer/dryer.	Yes – If laundry facilities are located on the accessible ground floor	To facilitate use by a person in a wheelchair	
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Residential Unit – Windows, Patios and Balconies

44-E	Balconies and	Decks, balconies or patios provided for use by		To enable balcony use by a	
	patios –	occupants of a dwelling unit are to	Yes – Applies to ground floor	person in a wheelchair, and	
	threshold	 be accessible to persons using wheelchairs by a design that does not compromise the water resistance of the building envelope. have a minimum 86 cm (34 in) clear opening 	/ patio	also to provide temporary refuge in case of building fire	
		door width. • be no less than 152 cm (60 in) deep from the outside face of the exterior wall to the inside edge of the balcony, deck or patio.			

	Item	Basic (B) Accessible Design Features	Enhanced (E) Accessible Design Features	Applicability to Ground- Oriented Multi-Family	Purpose/ Intent	Compliance (Y/N)
45-E	Window openings and window sill height		 Windows are to have an opening mechanism no more than 117 cm (46 in) above the floor and be operable by devices (such as "levers") that do not require tight grasping or twisting. Window sills are to be located no more than 76 cm (30 in) above the floor. 	Yes – Applies to ground floor level of identified ground-oriented m/f units	To enable operation and use by a person in a wheelchair	

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Attachment 2 ACCESSIBLE DESIGN CHECKLIST – TO BE SUBMITTED AT THE DETAILED PLANNING APPLICATION STAGE

Proposed Development	
Address Date	
Type of Residential: multi-family apartment [] mixed use building [] ground-orient Total number of residential units	nted multi-family
Parking Total number of parking stalls (residential component Total number of accessible parking stalls (residential component (residential component (residential component (residential comp	only) conent only)
A. Basic Accessible Design	
Total apartment units designed as basic accessible unitsBuilding number/address (if applicable)	Unit numbers (if applicable) Unit sizes
B. Enhanced Accessible Design	
Total apartment units designed as enhanced accessible unitsBuilding number/address (if applicable)	Unit numbers (if applicable) Unit sizes
C. Ground-oriented Multi-Family Units	
Total ground-oriented m/f units designed as basic accessible unitsBuilding number/address (if applicable)	Unit numbers (if applicable) Unit sizes
Total ground-oriented m/f units designed as enhanced accessible units Building number/address (if applicable)	Unit numbers (if applicable) Unit sizes
the Registered Professional of Record for the project confirm th th the standards outlined in this policy.	at the above development will comply
(signature)	
(date)	
(atama)	
(stamp)	