

- The **Accessible Canada Act (ACA)** is federal legislation enacted with the goal of achieving a **barrier-free Canada by 2040**. The ACA primarily governs areas under federal jurisdiction (like transportation, banking, and federal government operations) and mandates that these organizations proactively identify, remove, and prevent barriers, including those related to the **built environment**.
- While the ACA, the provincial **Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)**, and the **Ontario Building Code (OBC)** have specific compliance requirements that *mostly* apply to public, commercial, and multi-unit residential spaces, they collectively establish the foundation for **best practice** in Canadian accessible design.
- This checklist is not a list of legal mandates for your private single-family home renovation. Instead, it serves as SweetHome Spaces' **Best Practice Accessibility Benchmark**, utilizing standards and principles derived from the ACA's goals and technical requirements often referenced by its standards body (Accessibility Standards Canada, e.g., CAN/ASC-2.8: Accessible-Ready Housing) to ensure your Mississauga or GTA home renovation achieves the **highest level of accessibility** and inclusivity.
-  **SweetHome Spaces Accessible Renovation Checklist (Based on ACA/ASC Principles)**
- This checklist uses Canadian best practice standards (informed by ACA principles and technical standards) for optimal accessibility in private residential renovations in the GTA

I. ENTRANCES & EXITS

HOME AREA	POTENTIAL ACCESSIBLE RENOVATION	FUNCTIONAL STANDARD / ACA PRINCIPLE	KEY BENEFIT FOR HOMEOWNER
ENTRY DOORS	Widen doorways to 36 inches.	32 inches minimum clear width. Principle: Barrier-Free Access (physical barrier removal).	Accommodates standard wheelchairs and allows easy aging-in-place modifications.
ENTRANCE RAMP	Install permanent ramp with non-slip surface.	1:12 maximum slope (as referenced in the OBC/CSA B651). Principle: Dignity and Full Participation .	Safe, independent, and dignified access for all mobility levels.
LANDING AREA	Ensure a level landing area outside the door.	Minimum 60 inches by 60 inches maneuvering space.	Allows safe wheelchair turning and maneuvering for door operation.
THRESHOLDS	Use low-profile or beveled thresholds.	Maximum height of $\frac{1}{2}$ inch (or less). Principle: Prevention of New Barriers .	Minimizes tripping hazards and facilitates rolling motion.

II. BATHROOMS

HOME AREA	POTENTIAL ACCESSIBLE RENOVATION	FUNCTIONAL STANDARD / ACA PRINCIPLE	KEY BENEFIT FOR HOMEOWNER
SHOWER	Zero-threshold roll-in shower.	Floor slope must be gentle, with minimum 30 inches by 60 inches clear floor space.	Safe, independent bathing, suitable for caregivers.
GRAB BARS	Install reinforced horizontal and vertical grab bars.	Mounted between 33 and 36 inches above the finished floor (CSA B651 standard).	Essential support for transfers and fall prevention.
TOILET	Install a comfort-height toilet.	Top of the seat between 17 and 19 inches high.	Reduces strain and aids in safe transfers.
SINK/VANITY	Roll-under vanity with clear knee clearance.	27 inches minimum clear knee/toe space underneath.	Allows seated users to pull up to the sink.
FAUCETS	Install lever or sensor-operated fixtures.	Operable without tight grasping, pinching, or twisting. Principle: Highest Level of Accessibility.	Accessible for individuals with limited hand dexterity or arthritis.

III. KITCHENS

HOME AREA	POTENTIAL ACCESSIBLE RENOVATION	FUNCTIONAL STANDARD / ACA PRINCIPLE	KEY BENEFIT FOR HOMEOWNER
COUNTERS	Incorporate variable or adjustable counter heights.	Accessible work areas at 28 to 34 inches high.	Enables both standing and seated food preparation and use.
APPLIANCES	Install side-opening or wall-mounted appliances (ovens, microwaves).	Controls must be within safe reach range.	Safer use of hot appliances without excessive bending or reaching.
CLEAR FLOOR SPACE	Ensure clear maneuvering space between cabinets.	Minimum 40 inches clear passage width.	Adequate turning space for most wheelchairs.
STORAGE	Use pull-out drawers, racks, and pantry shelving.	Hardware and storage should minimize deep reaching.	Improves independence and access to contents.

IV. GENERAL INTERIORS

HOME AREA	POTENTIAL ACCESSIBLE RENOVATION	FUNCTIONAL STANDARD / ACA PRINCIPLE	KEY BENEFIT FOR HOMEOWNER
HALLWAYS	Ensure clear passage width.	Minimum 36 inches clear width.	Facilitates navigation by wheelchair, walker, or scooter.
DOOR HARDWARE	Replace knobs with lever-style handles.	Operable without tight grip. Principle: Removing Barriers (physical/architectural).	Essential for manual operation when grip strength is limited.
SWITCHES/OUTLETS	Adjust the height of controls and outlets.	Switches/thermostats at maximum 48 inches high; Outlets at minimum 15 inches high.	Easy reach from a seated or standing position.
FLOORING	Select firm, stable, non-slip surfaces.	Low-pile carpet or hard, non-reflective surfaces with secure transitions.	Reduces risk of falls and eases movement for mobility devices.

V. VERTICAL ACCESS

HOME AREA	POTENTIAL ACCESSIBLE RENOVATION	FUNCTIONAL STANDARD / ACA PRINCIPLE	KEY BENEFIT FOR HOMEOWNER
STAIRS	Install continuous, graspable handrails on both sides.	Handrails must be between 34 and 38 inches high and extend beyond the first/last step.	Provides continuous support for safety and balance.
ALTERNATIVE ACCESS	Install a residential elevator or stair lift.	Must meet relevant Canadian safety standards.	Provides independent access between floors for permanent wheelchair users.

Your Partner for Accessible Living in Mississauga & the GTA

SweetHome Spaces is a licensed General Contractor specializing in comprehensive, **Accessible Home Renovations** that meet and exceed Canadian best practice standards (informed by the ACA/AODA).

Don't navigate complex barrier-free design alone. Whether you require a **zero-threshold bathroom** in Oakville, a **wheelchair-accessible kitchen** in Toronto, or a **safe entrance ramp** in Mississauga, our team provides expert consultation, design, and guaranteed construction.

We proactively identify and remove barriers in all areas of your home—from doors and hallways to outdoor decks—ensuring safety, independence, and the highest level of accessibility for you and your family.

Ready to start your barrier-free renovation?

SweetHome Spaces: Building Accessible Futures, Today.

WE WORK IN COORDINATION WITH YOUR THERAPIST OR YOU CAN GET A FREE ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT

Serving: Mississauga, Toronto, Oakville, Brampton & the Greater Toronto Area (GTA)

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