



PACE, Inc.

Fact Sheet: **Environmental Modifications
to Enhance Living
with Low Vision**

Consider these ideas:

- contrasting color switch plates and electric socket plates
- contrasting color selection of carpet and wall coverings with minimal confusing patterns
- contrast color edging on any steps
- contrasting door frames and doors from adjacent walls
- higher number of electric outlets for adaptive equipment
- rounded corners on kitchen countertops
- gentler rounded corners on bathroom vanity countertops and other hard wood furniture
- kitchen and bathroom counters with lip toward outer edge (to prevent spills dripping off easily)
- hinges on cabinet doors that allow door to open completely and lay flush/flat
- soft lights over kitchen counters – especially targeting “work” sites
- under-counter lighting in kitchen
- additional wattage in master closets or pantries
- additional lighting wattage over bathroom vanities/mirrors
- ceiling light fixtures in all rooms
- rheostat/dimmer switches in living room, dining room, master bedroom
- nightlights in halls/bathrooms/garage for orientation
- talking, tactile, or large print thermostat
- tactile markings on appliances (such as bump dots) including inside refrigerator, stove knobs
- talking caller ID or very large print caller ID
- large print or Braille label fuse box
- large print or Braille utility shut off valves/switches
- intercom system for front door
- larger peep hole on exterior doors

Outside the house:

- very large print high contrast house numbers
- contrasting color mailbox and large print number/name
- increased illumination and wattage on outside lights
- wind chimes, recirculating water feature, or other auditory feature to locate house in neighborhood
 - or consider repainting house color and trim
- large print house numbers on garbage can/recycling containers to locate them again after wind
- doorbells with different chimes to distinguish front from back/garage.



**an Illinois Center for Independent Living
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