The Principles of Universal Design

The design of products and environments to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design.

1 Equitable Use
The design is useful and marketable to people with diverse abilities.

2 Flexibility in Use
The design accommodates a wide range of individual preferences and abilities.

3 Simple and Intuitive Use
Use of the design is easy to understand, regardless of the user's experience, knowledge, language skills, or education level.

4 Perceptible Information
The design communicates necessary information effectively to the user, regardless of ambient conditions or the user's sensory abilities.

5 Tolerance for Error
The design minimizes hazards and the adverse consequences of accidental or unintended actions.

6 Low Physical Effort
The design can be used efficiently and comfortably and with a minimum of fatigue.

7 Size and Space for Approach and Use
Appropriate size and space is provided for approach, reach, manipulation, and use regardless of user's body size, posture, or mobility.

Powered door with sensors is convenient for all shoppers, especially if hands are full.

A sequential step trigger on a nail gun requires the user to 1 activate the safety before pulling the trigger, minimizing accidents that occur when a user accidentally pulls the trigger after placing the trigger.

Large-grip scissors accommodate use with either hand and allows alternation between hands in highly repetitive tasks.

Small bumps on a cell phone keypad tell the user where important keys are without requiring the user to look at the keys.

Door lever does not require grip strength to operate, and can even be operated by a closed fist or elbow.

Wide gates at subway stations accommodate wheelchair users as well as commuters with packages or luggage.

Public emergency stations utilize recognized emergency colors and a simple design to quickly convey function to passers-by.

Center for Universal Design
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