



Windows should be adequately sized and located low enough to view the outside from both seated and standing positions. Motorized window controls and casement windows with large handles can facilitate operation. Swing doors with a low threshold or sliding patio doors with recessed thresholds can provide easy access to the exterior. Skylights may be equipped with a special pole or motorized controls enabling them to be opened easily.

Slightly wider hallways and doorways and a well-thought-out, open floor plan will allow access to all rooms. Levered door handles, rocker light switches and electrical outlets at locations and heights accessible to everyone

are simple design modifications. Installing cabinets with full-extension drawers and shelves, lower upper cabinets, and adjustable rod and shelf heights in closets, as well as providing knee space under sinks and lowered counters and workspaces will better accommodate the needs of individuals in wheelchairs. Some features, such as wider doors and hallways, can be built into any home at moderate cost and can increase future saleability.

A good accessible kitchen floor plan (Figure 3.10) will avoid through-traffic in the work area. Countertops and the cook-top area should provide a choice of work surface height to allow both seated and standing access to work

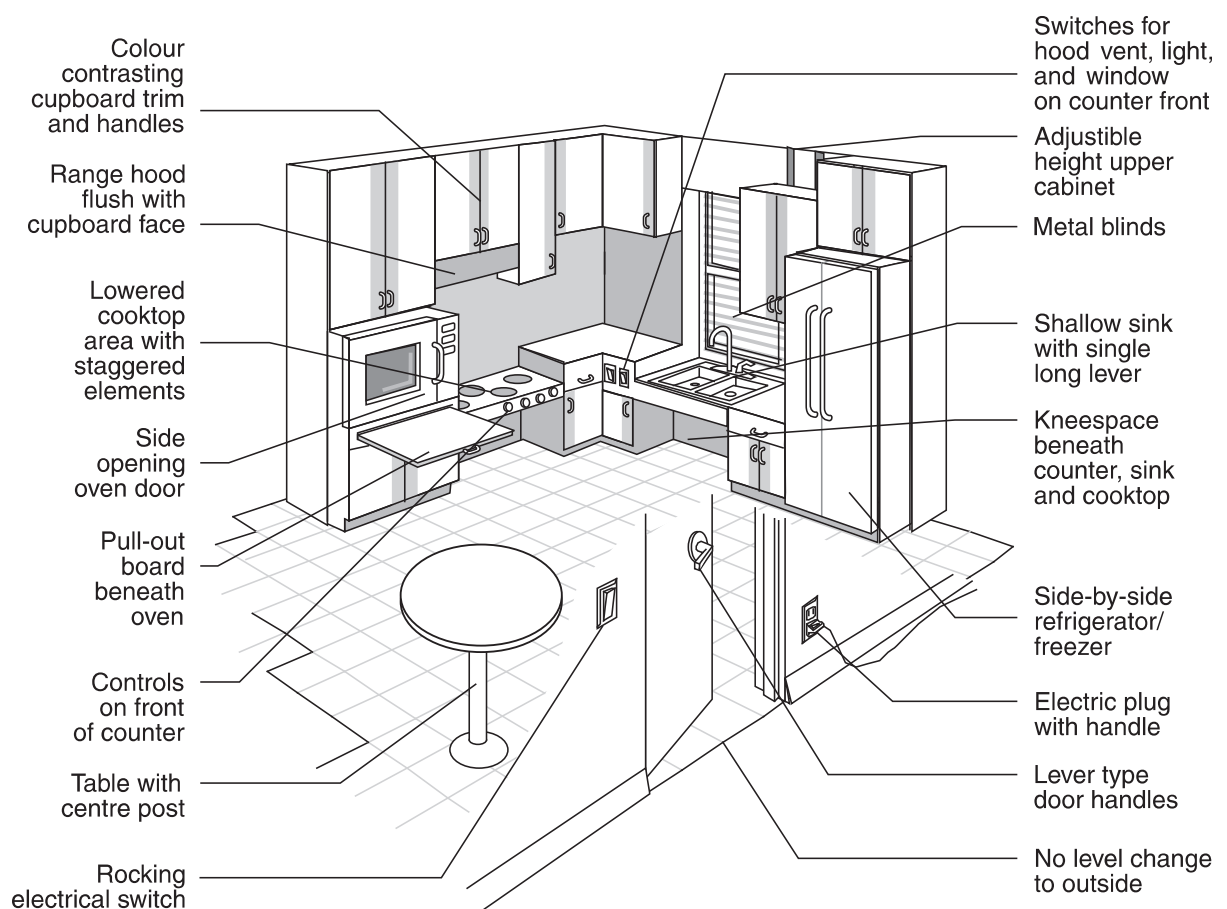


Figure 3.10 Accessible kitchen