

What kind of structural changes can I ask for under the Fair Housing Act?

These changes, or “reasonable modifications” are structural change made to homes to allow a person with a disability full and equal enjoyment of his or her home. Reasonable modifications can include structural changes to interiors and exteriors of homes and to common and public use areas. In a home, it can include the following:

Persons with mobility impairments – automatic doors, grab bars, ramps widening doors, reconfiguring the apartment, replacing appliances, removing carpeting, lowering kitchen cabinets, installing Hoyer ceiling lifts or tracks, roll-in showers, accessible knobs or door handles, or any other device.

Persons who are deaf or hearing impaired – strobes, increased bandwidth for internet connections

Persons with chemical sensitivity or allergies – replace carpet, air conditioners, filters or humidifiers.

In the common areas, persons with disabilities can also ask for changes in the public or common areas, as follows:

Persons with mobility impairments – automatic doors, grab bars, ramps or accessible paths, widening doors, pool lifts, accessible hardware and door handles, lifts to different levels of a facility.

Persons who are deaf or hearing impaired – strobes, assistive listening devices

Persons with visual impairments – braille signage, stair tread or tape.

There really is no limitation. Other than the change must be reasonable, the only other requirement is the connection or nexus between the disability and the need for the structural change.