

# Handicapped Accessible Home

By: Kevin and Zachary Smith

# Our home

- I'm not an expert, I only know what I know. Going into this disease I wanted one clear outcome. I knew we would be spending time in Hospitals and using adaptive equipment so my one thing in this remodel was that our house was not going to look like a hospital. Zachary's room had to be a boys room.
- Insurance won't pay for much and I found very few resources on the web. With this said most places that sell adaptive equipment have it prices to soak your Insurance company and are not really set up to sell to Dad. Don't freak out when you see what these things sell for. I have done most of my research at said places only to go to e-bay and find the same products for 50 to 70% less. Craigslist.com is another way you may save some money as well.
- Age of your son will determine what if any modifications you will need to make.

# Ramps



You can purchase portable ramps to place at doorways for scooters and wheelchairs. They are great for visits to others homes to get your son over door humps and steps. They come in many different sizes.

# Ramp folded



Here is another view so you can see it folds up so you can put it in your personal transportation.

# Homemade ramp



I built this ramp for my front door, covering it with indoor outdoor carpet helps keep the dirt outside your home.

# Swing Hinges



Doorways and wheelchairs don't mix. As you can see from the picture above there is no way to widen this door.

# Door open



Widening doors is very expensive, I found these “Swing away” hinges on e-bay. You install them in place of the standard door hinge and it allows the entire door to swing away giving you extra width at the door way.

# Zack's Room exit view



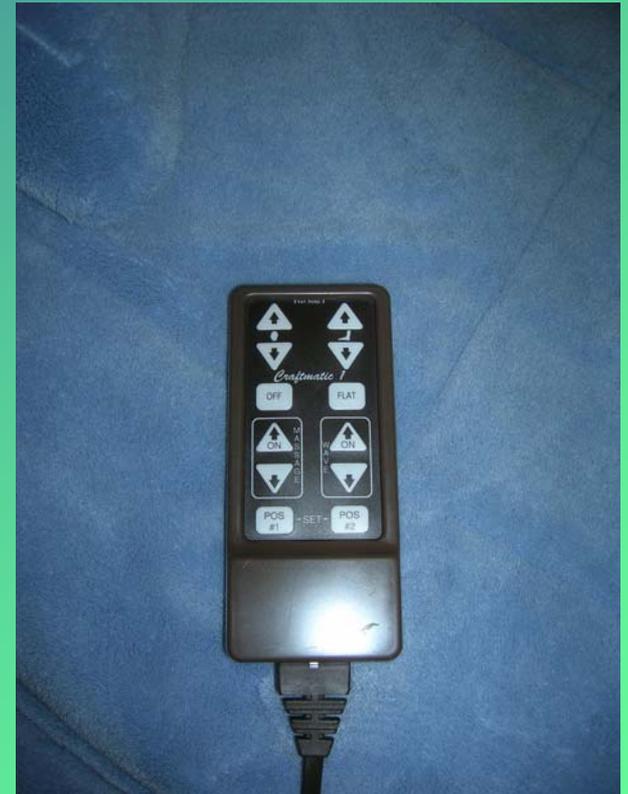
Location of your son's room is very important. We purchased a one story home as I did not want Zachary to feel there was anywhere he could not go. You need to have your boys room near an exit. In case of an emergency you don't want to have to run up the stairs in a burning house and carry him out in the dark!

# Zack's room from exit



The new house has a 21 X 16 game room off the back with a slider exit to the pool deck. This works out great as a bed room for Zachary. The extra room allows him freedom to move around his room in his chair and have a computer desk and drafting table as he loves to draw.

# Adjustable Bed



We chose a Craft-matic adjustable bed for him as it's remote control and allows him to adjust his own position. Call them and then blow them off a couple of times on the phone, tell them your looking around, you will be surprised how fast the price will drop on this bed.

# Bed Risers



These bed raisers cost about \$20 a set, putting them under the bed made it easier to use the Hoyer lift. Also a set under the computer desk means Zachary desk is the right height for him to use the computer while sitting in his wheelchair.

# Dining room



We bought a Pub table for the dinning room so he can eat at the table with us as well. It was less than \$300 at Rooms to go.

# Shower Chair



This is a shower chair,(\$300) my wife would not let me buy this one. I liked it because it's cheap! However my wife liked the one on the next slide and it gets a lot of use it doubles for a potty chair so I bit the bullet on this one

# Shower Chair



This chair reclines and has a host of attachments, it slides over the toilet for ease of use. This one was \$2,300, I only paid \$400 for my first car so this one hurt a bit. However the boy has to take laxatives so he's on the pot often and every man needs a throne.

# Hoyer Lift



Zachary had to have spinal fusion surgery last year so we have to pick him up with a Hoyer lift. This one is paid for by Insurance. There are many different kinds I chose the manual/ portable. No batteries to fight with the insurance company to replace.

# Hoyer folded



Here it is folded for transport. You're still going on vacations and you will need to take this stuff with you. So this is why I went portable. Hoyer lifts and carpet don't mix!

# Carpet removed laminate floors installed



We put in laminate flooring in the three areas that the Hoyer lift would be used, I googled how to install the stuff and me and three buddies did 3 rooms in about 12 hours. It was around \$2,500 to do it ourselves. I saved over \$3000 doing it myself. My boss has always said if you need anything let me know, I called him and he brought the saws and the buddies..

# Second wife Karen



This is Karen the robot vacuum, this little marvel cleans the wood floors great and takes one more thing off the wife's plate. Wheel chairs bring in a lot of dirt Karen stays on top of it. I-robot (\$300)

Spongebob's enemy Plankton has a computer wife named Karen.

# Pride lift chair



This is the Pride mobility chair. It is also remote control and allows Zachary to move around with little help from us. Leather wears better and cleans easier. This one was around \$1,200. Your son will not want to sit in a wheel chair all day it gives his back side a break.

# Master Bathroom Remodel



The bathroom is going to cost a lot. We removed the tub and shower and had one giant shower with dual heads installed. I did the counter tops, sink, and cabinets to keep the costs down.

# Shower



Here you can see the shower chair in the shower and the adjustable head for Zachary to shower himself. The controls are to the right of the chair, the controls behind the chair are for our shower head.

# Zack's Bathroom



This is a picture of the pool bath it was next to the game room so we had the wall removed. This way we can roll Zachary right into his bathroom for toiletry needs. I put in a pedestal sink so he could drive up and brush his teeth at his own sink. The mirror tilts down so a person in a chair can see themselves.

# Pool lift



This is a manual pool lift, I was able to get the only pool company in our area to carry it, to price match an internet price. It's still \$2000 with the hole drilled to mount it in.

# Van lift



Insurance will not pay for your van lift, \$6000 to \$8000. We had ours put in the back not the side. We live in Florida and everyone here is handicapped, so you'll never find a parking place for a side lift van. Now I can park where ever I can find a place. Contact me at [Nodda57@msn.com](mailto:Nodda57@msn.com) I got my van lift for \$2,000!

# Zack's room



The first slide was taken from Zachary's bed. I installed a projector and screen so he has a 150 inch screen to play video games and watch TV on. I wanted him to have a place to hang out with his buddies as most peoples houses are not accessible and he will be a Freshman this year. The screen rolls up and the sliding door is behind it.