

19-point SAFERhome Standards

There is now a real option to get more than the traditionally accepted minimum building standard: SAFERhome design.

SAFERhome is an overlay for homes that brings flexibility, safety, comfort, and cost savings. **All criteria are within the existing Provincial and National Building Codes**. SAFERhome Standards are measurable and tangible "gold standards" in universal home design. Universal design is a way to build homes that work for all people.

Standards

- **Criteria 1: Exterior Thresholds**

All exterior thresholds are flush.

- **Criteria 2: Interior Thresholds**

All interior thresholds meet minimal code constraints (e.g., shower entrance).

- **Criteria 3: Positioning of Bath and Shower Controls**

All controls are offset from centre, roughly halfway between the centre and the outside edge of the shower or bathtub enclosure.

- **Criteria 4: Pressure/Temperature Control Valves** (Canada for renovations only)

Control valves are installed on all shower faucets.

- **Criteria 5: Washroom Wall Reinforcements**

Reinforced with 2"x12" solid lumber in all washroom bathtub, shower, and toilet locations.

- **Criteria 6: Waste Pipes**

All pipes are brought in no higher than 14" to the centre of the pipe from floor level.

- **Criteria 7: Sink Cabinets**

Cabinets underneath each sink are easily removed.

- **Criteria 8: Doors (pinch points)**

All doors and pinch points are a minimum of 34" but ideally 36" wide.

- **Criteria 9: Hallways**

All hallways are a minimum of 40" but ideally 42" wide.

- **Criteria 10: Positioning of Light Switches**

All switches positioned at 42" to the centre of the electrical box from the finished floor.

- **Criteria 11: Positioning of Electrical Outlets**

All outlets positioned at 18" to the centre of the electrical box from the finished floor.

- **Criteria 12: Placement Locations of Electrical Outlets**

- Beside windows, especially where draperies or blinds may be installed;
 - Bottom of stairways;
 - Beside the toilet;
 - Above external doors (outside and inside);
 - On the front face of the kitchen counter;
 - At Node Zero Location (the communications control centre for smart home options) where all the house wiring meets in one place.

- **Criteria 13: Electrical Boxes**

All light switches and A/C outlets use Smart electrical boxes.

- **Criteria 14: Four-Plex Outlet Locations**

Placed in master bedroom, home office, garage, and recreation room.

- **Criteria 15: Telephone Pre-Wiring**

CAT 5E (4 pair) homerun to all areas and return to one central area (Node Zero).

- **Criteria 16: RG-6 Coaxial Cables Runs**

All homeruns return to one central area. (Node Zero)

- **Criteria 17: Low-Voltage Runs**

All other low-voltage homeruns (eg. door bells, security systems, etc.) return to one central area. (Node Zero)

- **Criteria 18: Wall Reinforcements (Top of the Stairs)**

At the top of all stairways, walls are reinforced with 2"x12" solid lumber at 36" to centre.

- **Criteria 19: Provision for Multistorey Connection**

Either an allowance for an elevator option in stacked closets, or build all staircase(s) with a minimum width of 42".

For more details: Order ["How to easily build to SAFERhome Standards"](#) - \$19.95
(free with membership to the [SAFERhome Standards Society](#))