Condominium Home Owners Association of British Columbia
Leadership, Education and Resources for Strata Owners Across BC
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Checklist for an Accessible Main Building Entrance

Accessible Main Building Entrance Features	How does our building compare?	Determine next steps and timing
Is the main entrance to the building identifiable? ➢ The entrance is identifiable from the rest of the building through colour or design details. ➢ The building address is visible both at the entrance and from the street view throughout the day. At night, good illumination will enhance visibility.		
Is the route to the main entrance easy to access? ➢ The route from any public space (i.e., sidewalk) or parking to the main entrance is continuous and is barrier-free. ➢ If there are level changes, the route has a ramp. ➢ For longer routes, ensure there are rest spaces along the way. ➢ The route surface is firm, stable, and slip resistant. ➢ The route to the main entrance is separated from traffic and does not require users to cross any paths of traffic. ➢ Ensure curb cut outs are in place for areas such as loading zones. ➢ Tactile warning indicators can run along curb cut outs and at intersections where traffic occurs. ➢ If pedestrian crossings are needed, ensure they are clearly marked.		
Is the ramp accessible? ➢ The ramp are clearly visible and easy to access. ➢ Ensure the path is wide enough to accommodate people passing each other (i.e., enough room for two wheelchair or mobility users to pass each other). ➢ Continuous handrails on both sides of the ramp will improve accessibility. These are easy to grasp with a smooth, round finish. ➢ Include a visibly contrasted, continuous edge on the ramp to		

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prevent a wheelchair or other mobility device from slipping over the edge. ➢ Are tactile warning indicators available to guide cane users directly to the main entrance? ➢ Provide continuous lighting on the ramp, using a non-reflective surface.		
Are the stairs safe and easy to use? ➢ Stairs are wide enough for people in multiple configurations to easily pass each other. Consider a central handrail. ➢ Stairs are consistent with uniform riser heights and tread depths. Each stair nosing is flush with the riser or, if projecting, slope down to the riser below. ➢ Ensure the stair edges are visible with a colour contrasting strip on the nosing that extends across the width of the stair and is consistent for each step. ➢ Ensure the headspace of the stairs is clear (including overhanging tree branches, etc.).		
Is there a protective covering at the entrance to shield residents or visitors from outdoor elements (i.e. rain, snow)? ➢ Provide adequate lighting in this area and ensure the surface is non-reflective.		
Is the access route well maintained? ➢ Ensure there is maintenance planned for any seasonal elements, including removal of snow, ice, leaves, gravel, etc. ➢ Do not add sand, gravel, or other materials that will impede movement. ➢ The surfaces are maintained to ensure the route remains stable, level and slip-resistant. ➢ Do not let water pool on the surface of the route. ➢ Ensure trees and bushes are trimmed from the paths of travel.		
Is there a maintenance plan in place?		

Note: This checklist presents suggestions for consideration. Consult with local authorities as well as agencies and governing bodies responsible for accessibility before planning for accessibility.

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