

## **Elevators and Stairlifts for the Home:**

Convenient, Functional and Economical

Stairs can be problematic for a variety of reasons, and for some homeowners they have just become impractical. Many families are finding stairs to be difficult and cumbersome. If you are having balance or instability issues when walking, stairs become unsafe and can lead to serious injury. Two alternatives for a more convenient solution are residential elevators and stairlifts.

Recent surveys nationwide have revealed that many prospective homebuyers have identified an elevator as a “must-have” feature for their next home. Additionally, the increasing cost of land necessitates the building of multi-level houses rather than sprawling ranch houses. As a result of this growing trend, a considerable number of new homes are designed and built with elevators in place. Today’s elevators are safe, dependable and economical, adding convenience, functionality and value to the home. The cost of an elevator is dependent upon the size of the cab, the number of stops and its interior design. Elevators can be used not only by all family members, but also for transporting luggage, golf clubs, groceries, etc. In fact, builders and developers are finding that an elevator enhances the value and marketability of their properties. For new, and certain existing homes, they are a wonderful alternative.

But what about existing homes? Can elevators be retrofitted to those as well? Sometimes, but creating the space in an existing home for a hoistway (a.k.a. the elevator shaft, the enclosed space in which an elevator operates) can sometimes prove difficult and expensive. In these situations, many homeowners are opting, instead, for stairlifts that can be fitted to any stairway – even ornate ones with curves and bends. Stairlifts are an excellent solution that will provide safety and freedom in your current home.

A stairlift utilizes the existing stairway. No structural alterations are necessary, which means no construction hassle or expense. Even better, a stairlift can usually be installed in a single day. Stairlifts are far more economical than selling your house and moving.

Today’s stairlifts are very safe and easy to use – as easy as getting into the chair and pushing a button. They are attractively packaged and fold snugly to the wall when not in use so as not to interfere with pedestrian traffic. Their uses go beyond the obvious; many people like to use their stairlifts to help move groceries or laundry.

When considering an elevator or stairlift, it’s helpful to consult with a qualified company for guidance. There are many products to choose from, and while they have similarities, they also have significant differences. It’s important to partner with a licensed elevator contractor who will take the time to help you understand these differences and select the product that best suits your needs and budget.

**Adaptive Environments** of Sterling Heights is one such contractor. In business since 1985, they specialize in the installation of elevators, stairlifts and platform lifts for the home and are an authorized distributor for several prominent manufacturers of these products. Contact **Adaptive Environments** for additional information or to schedule a free in-home evaluation at 1.800.355.LIFT (5438). You can also visit their showroom located at 43600 Utica Road in Sterling Heights or their website at [www.adaptive-environments.com](http://www.adaptive-environments.com).