

7.2 DEMENTIA-FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

This checklist is used alongside the Environmental Scan Template to evaluate how supportive a space is for individuals living with dementia. Each section includes a description of what is being assessed and why it is important. Use this during a walk-through to identify strengths, gaps, and opportunities for improvement.

ENTRANCE & PARKING

Description: Assesses how easy it is for individuals to locate and safely enter the building. Clear, simple access reduces confusion and anxiety.

Checklist Item	Yes / No	Notes	Priority (Low/Med/High)
Entrance is clearly visible and easy to identify	☐ Yes ☐ No		
Accessible parking is available and close to entrance	☐ Yes ☐ No		
Entrance pathway is clear and free of obstacles	☐ Yes ☐ No		
Doors are easy to open and clearly marked	☐ Yes ☐ No		

SIGNAGE & WAYFINDING

Description: Assesses how easy it is to navigate the space. People living with dementia benefit from clear, simple, and consistent visual cues.

Checklist Item	Yes / No	Notes	Priority (Low/Med/High)
Signs are large, clear, and easy to read	☐ Yes ☐ No		
Consistent symbols, colors, or images are used	☐ Yes ☐ No		
Directional signs are placed at key decision points	☐ Yes ☐ No		
Important areas (restrooms, exits) are clearly labeled	☐ Yes ☐ No		

LIGHTING

Description: Assesses visibility and comfort. Poor lighting can increase confusion, fear, and risk of falls.

Checklist Item	Yes / No	Notes	Priority (Low/Med/High)
Areas are well-lit with minimal shadows	☐ Yes ☐ No		
Lighting is even and consistent throughout space	☐ Yes ☐ No		
Glare from windows or floors is minimized	☐ Yes ☐ No		
Transitions between light and dark areas are gradual	☐ Yes ☐ No		

FLOORING & VISUAL CONTRAST

Description: Use solid or low-patterned flooring to prevent spatial confusion and provides high-contrast transitions between floors and walls to aid depth perception.

Checklist Item	Yes / No	Notes	Priority (Low/Med/High)
Floors are non-slip and even	☐ Yes ☐ No		
Avoids busy or high contrast patterns	☐ Yes ☐ No		
Clear contract between floors, walls, & doors	☐ Yes ☐ No		
Rugs or mats are secured and do not create tripping hazards	☐ Yes ☐ No		

NOISE & DISTRACTIONS

Description: Assesses sensory environment. Too much noise or visual clutter can be overwhelming and disorienting.

Checklist Item	Yes / No	Notes	Priority (Low/Med/High)
Noise levels are calm and manageable	☐ Yes ☐ No		
Background distractions are limited	☐ Yes ☐ No		
Quiet areas are available	☐ Yes ☐ No		
Overhead announcements or loud sounds are minimized	☐ Yes ☐ No		

SAFETY & ACCESSIBILITY

Description: Assesses how easy it is to move through the space independently and safely.

Checklist Item	Yes / No	Notes	Priority (Low/Med/High)
Paths are clear, simple, and unobstructed	☐ Yes ☐ No		
Layout is easy to understand	☐ Yes ☐ No		
Seating areas are available for rest	☐ Yes ☐ No		
Restrooms and key areas are easy to locate	☐ Yes ☐ No		

STAFF & SUPPORT

Description: Assesses how well people are supported by staff interactions. Supportive communication is critical in dementia-friendly environments.

Checklist Item	Yes / No	Notes	Priority (Low/Med/High)
Staff have received dementia awareness training	☐ Yes ☐ No		
Staff communicate clearly and patiently	☐ Yes ☐ No		
Staff are easy to identify and approachable	☐ Yes ☐ No		
Help is readily available when needed	☐ Yes ☐ No		