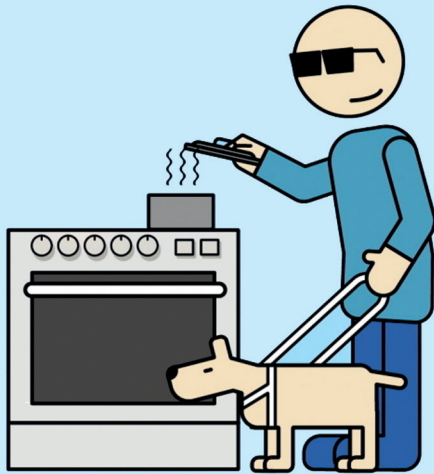


Design for All !

User-friendly Home Appliances for All



Home appliances, there to help us in everyday life, and you can find them in every household. You can find them for everything imaginable, in various shapes and colours. However, accessible home appliances are few and far between.

Modern Technology and Accessibility Should not be Mutually Exclusive!

Modern home appliances are becoming smarter and are controlled via touchscreens or touch sensor buttons almost exclusively. This leads to a large number of potential customers not being able to use home appliances currently available on the market at all or making limited use of them at best.

There are around eighty million people with different disabilities in the EU alone, more than 15 percent of the overall population in Europe. In addition, a growing number of people is struggling to use modern home appliances for age-related reasons. This makes for at least 20 percent of users.

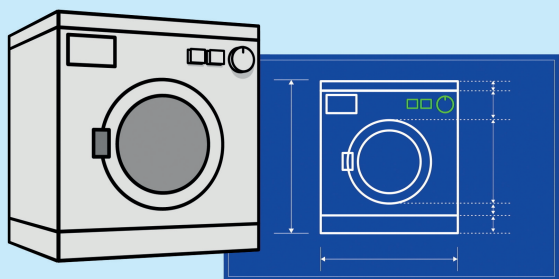
Despite a substantial number of people, there are no accessible home appliances available to buy. Yet modern technology and accessibility are not mutually exclusive.

The prerequisite for everyone to be able to benefit from home appliances is a

Design for All

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One design of products, programmes, and services, enabling everyone to use them without the need for additional adaptations.



Characteristics of Accessible Home Appliances

- Perceiving and using a device can be achieved using at least two senses = multi-sensory principle. Example: in addition to visual information there is text-to-speech output and/or setting up the device can be accomplished using tactile controls. Likewise, the feedback when settings are changed is multi-sensory.
- Controls, labels, and displays must have a sufficient visual contrast and be glare-free. The contrast can be set individually.
- Fonts, symbols, and characters must be large enough and their size can be set individually. The font must be legible (leserlich.info, English).
- Manuals are easy to understand and available in accessible formats.
- Information and consultation must be tailored to the target group and is conducted by trained staff.

Consider Accessibility Straight Away and Use Expert Knowledge

By including people with disabilities in planning and development as well as product testing, their knowledge and experience are being considered, thus raising customer satisfaction.

If accessibility is part of the entire process right from the start, this, in turn, will limit your expenses.

Using Apps and Voice Assistants

Controlling home appliances using apps or voice assistants may also be an option but should only be considered as a supplement.

Safety-relevant operations and basic functions of a device must be accessible on the device itself.



DESIGN FOR ALL!

Consulting for Manufacturers and Suppliers

How to achieve this and what approaches have already been put in practice, those are topics we can inform you about as a network of German-speaking associations for the blind and partially sighted „Home Designed for All“.

Our Goal: Making the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities a reality

Our goals are derived from the UNCRPD:

- Abolishing discrimination: Using the „Design for All“ principle
- Participating in technical change: Freedom of choice during purchase and manuals that are easy to understand
- Including accessibility in the development and designing process and as a criterion for product testing

If you are a manufacturer or supplier and want to know more about accessible home appliances, do get in touch!

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