Accessible Kitchen Design Checklist

Work through these checks before you order cabinets or start a remodel. Companion article: https://kitchenremodelchulavistaca.com/accessible-kitchen-design/

- [ ] **Measure the aisles first**
  At least 42 inches between facing counters; 48 inches where two people cook or a wheelchair or walker must pass.
- [ ] **Map the turning circle**
  A 60-inch diameter circle, clear of fixed items, overlapping the open space in front of the sink, range, or fridge.
- [ ] **Widen narrow doorways**
  At least 32 inches clear with the door open. Pocket doors or cased openings keep a swinging door out of the turning space.
- [ ] **Plan a lowered work section**
  28 to 34 inches high near the sink or prep area, with knee space 30 inches wide, 27 inches high, and 19 inches deep.
- [ ] **Swap fixed shelves for drawers**
  Wide, deep drawers with full-extension slides so pots, pans, and small appliances lift straight out, fully visible.
- [ ] **Add pull-out trays and corner fixes**
  Roll-out trays in base cabinets; a lazy Susan or swing-out shelf in corner cabinets so nothing hides out of reach.
- [ ] **Replace knobs with lever pulls**
  D-pulls and lever handles open with a closed fist or forearm. At least 4 inches between screws on drawer pulls.
- [ ] **Choose a lever or touchless faucet**
  Single-lever or touchless control with a pull-down spray head. Insulate hot-water pipes under an open sink section.
- [ ] **Place appliances within easy reach**
  Microwave at counter height or in a drawer; side-opening oven; fridge with the freezer on the bottom.
- [ ] **Pick slip-resistant flooring**
  Matte tile, matte luxury vinyl plank, or slip-resistant vinyl. No raised thresholds; floor flush with adjoining rooms.
- [ ] **Add under-cabinet lighting**
  Bright LED strips or bars over every work surface, 2700K to 3000K warm white, so counters are never in shadow.
- [ ] **Add backing for future support**
  Solid wood backing inside the walls beside the sink and along the island, so grab bars or rails can be added later.