

Using Other Senses to Modify Rooms

Modify by Touch

- Put a tactile marking, like a bow or a wreath, on your apartment door to distinguish it from others.
- Mark fire extinguishers with labels you can feel. Also, put the extinguishers where you can easily reach them and learn how to use them.
- Put marks that you can feel on shut-off valves.
- Put labels that you can feel on the dial settings of appliances such as the dishwasher, washer, and dryer. If you live with others who are sighted, use clear or transparent labels so that they can see the settings. For other labeling ideas, check out Hadley's labeling workshops.
- For staircases, put carpet on the top and bottom landing areas to contrast with the other steps.
- If decorating or redecorating, buy furniture with textured upholstery. This makes furniture in different rooms easily identifiable.
- Remove obstacles, such as furniture or decorations, out of walking pathways. This lets you trail the walls and avoid running into obstacles.
- Install a phone entry system to speak to visitors before opening your front door.

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- To prevent head bumps, avoid having low hanging lamps and flower plants.
- Use a stove with burners that are easily identifiable. It may be challenging to identify burners on a flat top stove.
- Install warning textiles throughout the home to indicate changes in floor levels or to identify specific doorways.
- Install tactile strips along walking paths.

Modify by Sound

- Use a ticking clock or radio to help you locate a room.
- Install a talking thermostat so you can easily set and control temperatures.

Modify by Smell

- Put a plug-in scent freshener in a room to make that room identifiable.