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Brought to you by:

THE TOOLS FOR
INDEPENDENCE INITIATIVE
OF THE

**INDEPENDENT
LIVING
PARTNERSHIP**

On the web at:
www.LivingPartnership.org

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The nonprofit Independent Living Partnership (ILP) - working for the rights of all to live independently in their own homes and communities.

Help Finding Assistive Technology—

Assistive Technology Network offers free information and referrals for assistive technology supplies, daily living devices, and community resources, funding and service providers throughout California. Call 1-800-390-2699, TTY: 1-800-900-0706 or visit www.atnet.org.

For Those with Difficulty Grasping, Open Doors with More Ease

The **Doorknob Lever Adapter** is a universal doorknob lever adaptor that fits all interior and exterior door knobs regardless of their size or shape. The device is designed to make opening doors easier for anyone with weak or arthritic hands. With the adapter in place, the door can be opened easily by pushing down or up on the handle. According to vendors, the **Doorknob Lever Adapter** can be easily installed without removing the knob or adjusting any existing hardware. The adapter allows full key entry and is available in different finishes including a special fluorescent glow-in-the-dark version for easy seeing. The price for this item from various vendors is \$29.95 for two levers.



Turn Any Lamp Into A Touch Lamp for More Ease of Movement



The **Touch Tronic Lamp Converter** eliminates the need to use hard-to-reach lamp switches and is ideal for people with arthritis, according to vendors. This converter screws easily into existing lamps. Simply touch any metal lamp surface to turn the lamp on or off. The lamp converter can use 3-way light bulbs as well as standard light bulbs. The lowest price we found for this item is \$23.00.

From the Editor

Happy New Year!! The staff of the *Tools for Independence Initiative* hopes you had a wonderful holiday season and sends its best wishes to you for a happy and healthy new year.

The purpose of the *Tools for Independence Newsletter* is to provide information and education to its readers about assistive technology (AT) devices. According to Wikipedia, assistive technology is defined as assistive, adaptive and rehabilitative devices for people with disabilities. These AT devices are meant to provide assistance with activities of daily living, to help people perform tasks that previously were too difficult to accomplish, and to make life easier for persons with limitations or disabilities to stay independent in their own homes as long as possible.

The Mission of the *Tools for Independence Initiative*, which includes this newsletter and the website: <http://toolsforindependence.org/> is to "Educate consumers and caregivers on how assistive technology can empower people to live as independently as possible."

You will notice a few changes in this issue. The items showcased in this newsletter are favorites from past issues. Those past issues can be accessed by going to this link: <http://toolsforindependence.org/toolsarchives.html>. We also plan to add more educational information in future issues. Most of the items that we feature are low- or no-technology and are available for under \$50 from a variety of vendors.

Please contact me at editor@toolsforindependence.com or by phone at 951-653-0740 x. 22 with questions or comments. Thank you for your support of *Tools for Independence*.

Cecilia Burch, Editor
TOOLS for Independence™

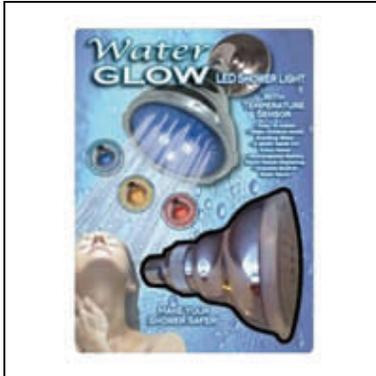
January
is
Alzheimer Awareness and Volunteer Blood Donor
Month

Introducing the EZ-Access Suitcase Ramp

The **EZ-Access Suitcase Ramp Advantage Series**, with its single fold design, offers a simple and convenient solution for wheelchairs and scooters to access steps, vehicles, and raised landings with ease. According to the vendors, this ultra-strong ramp provides the safety and strength required while remaining light and portable. The ramp can be separated, making it even easier to use, carry, and store. By simply removing two hinge pins, the **EZ-Access Suitcase Ramp** quickly separates into two lightweight sections, each with their own carrying handle. The ramp features high-quality skid-resistant tape with yellow safety strips and a self-adjusting bottom transition plate for easy conversion from ramp to ground. It unfolds to a 29" wide platform and comes in different lengths. These and similar products are available from various online vendors for \$132.50 and up.



A Light Tells You When the Shower Water Temperature is Just Right



The three little bears had to taste their porridge to find out if it was too hot or too cold. But with the **Water Glow LED Light Shower Head**, you never have to touch the water in your shower to find out if it is too hot or too cold. If the light on the shower head is green, the water is too cold. Red means it is too hot, and flashing red means scalding. When the blue light flashes, it is safe to get in to the shower. Vendors say it is easy to install. Simply twist off your existing showerhead and replace it with the **Water Glow LED Light Shower Head**. The price for this item from various vendors is under \$20.00.

Keep Your Insulin Cold For Up To 45 Hours...

...with the **Cooling Wallet**. Now you can travel anywhere as long as you have water! The wallet consists of an outer cover (available in several colors) and a pouch made of polycotton, with panels containing nontoxic crystals. To activate the crystals, remove the inner pouch from its cover and submerge it in water. Once the crystals are activated your **Cooling Wallet** can maintain acceptable temperature limits without refrigeration for up to 45 hours. The **Cooling Wallet** can hold 2 pens or 1 pen with 2 refill cartridges or 2-10ml vials of insulin. This item is available online from various vendors for \$23.00 to \$27.00.



If Your Loved One has Alzheimer's Stop Them From Opening Dangerous Cabinets



No one can open a cabinet door when it's locked using the **Invisible Cabinet Locks** unless they know the secret way to open it. The lock is invisible from the outside (the mechanism stays out of sight inside the door), so anyone with Alzheimer's won't be upset when finding locked cabinets in their home. Once the lock is installed, the cabinet door can be opened only by placing a magnetic knob-like "key" on the outside face of the cabinet in just the right spot. Cabinets to lock up include those with medicine, cleaning supplies, sharp tools or other potentially harmful items. This item can be purchased online for less than \$20.00.

Listed below are some places to purchase products that can help make your life safer and easier:

Active Living Now: www.activelivingnow.com or call 1-866-376-9981

Active Forever: www.activeforever.com or call 1-800-377-8033

Allegro Medical Supplies: www.allegromedical.com or call 1-800-861-3211

Amazon: www.amazon.com

Arthritis Supplies: www.ArthritisSupplies.com or call 1-877-750-0376

Bruce Medical: www.brucemedical.com or call 1-800-225-8446

Dynamic-Living: www.dynamic-living.com or call 1-888-940-0605

Elder Depot: www.elderdepot.com or call 1-800-900-7790

Foot Smart: www.footsmart.com or call 1-800-707-9928

Gold Violin: www.goldviolin.com or call 1-877-648-8400

LS & S: www.Lssproducts.com or call 1-800-468-4789

Make Life Easier: www.make-life-easier.com or call 1-800-522-0227

Maxi Aids: www.maxiaids.com or call 1-800-522-6294

Paterson Medical: www.patersonmedcal.com or call 1-866-402-8720

Sight Connection: www.sightconnection.com or call 1-800-458-4888

Simple Comforts: www.simplecomforts.com or call 1-800-361-1440

Solutions: www.solutions.com or call 1-877-718-7901

Support Plus: www.supportplus.com or call 1-800-229-2910

Target: www.target.com

The Alzheimer's Store: www.alzstore.com or call 1-800-752-3238

WalMart: www.walmart.com

Wright Stuff: www.wrightstuff.biz or call 1-877-750-0376

Wisdom King: Visit www.wisdomking.com or call 1-877-931-9693

All of the products mentioned in this newsletter are available at some of the vendors mentioned above and may be available for less cost from different vendors. We encourage you to check with various vendors and merchants before making your final choice. Mention of specific products is not an endorsement of these products. Product vendors provide no compensation or other benefit to *Tools*.

This Newsletter is published by the
**INDEPENDENT LIVING PARTNERSHIP
(ILP)**

ILP works to insure the independence and dignity of older adults and people with disabilities, their families and caregivers through education and access to empowering services and resources. This is accomplished through collaborative and cooperative partnering with public and private organizations, agencies and businesses. The goal is to help people lead more satisfying and rewarding lives, often in spite of significant health and mobility challenges.



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