

TOOLS for Independence™

MAKING YOUR LIFE AT HOME EASIER AND SAFER



June 2011

Brought to you by:

THE TOOLS FOR
INDEPENDENCE INITIATIVE
OF THE

**INDEPENDENT
LIVING
PARTNERSHIP**

On the web at:
www.LivingPartnership.org

Published by:

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, funding and community resources, and service providers, throughout California. Call 1-800-390-2699, TTY: 1-800-900-0706 or visit www.atnet.org.

Reach Your Garden Tools Without Bending or Tripping Over Them



Your garden tools will stay upright and within easy reach with the **Garden Tool Rest**. No straining your back to bend over and reach them, and no chance of tripping over them when they're laying flush on the ground. Simply push the sturdy U- shaped metal pole into the ground and your tools will stay safely upright. The **Garden Tool Rest** comes with a canvas and polyester pouch with two large slip pockets and three

small mesh pockets to hold your water, hand tools, seeds or gloves. The pouch attaches to the U shaped handle bar with a hook and loop closure. This two-piece pole with ground measures approx 17" wide x 6" deep x 45" high with the ground stake. Assembly is required. It's available from Solutions for \$19.95. Visit www.solutions.com or call 1-877-718-7901. Item # 87843.

To Our Valued Readers:

While we provide links to stores offering the products we feature in each issue of *TOOLS for Independence*, these products and products like them may be available from other outlets. So it's always a good idea to shop around for a product that catches your eye. You may find that it's available somewhere else at a lower cost or in a slightly different design that better meets your needs.

Assistant Goes With You Wherever You Go

Don't let difficulties getting out of bed keep you from taking trips away from home. The **Portable Econorail** slips between the mattress and the bed frame to become a sturdy support whenever you get out of bed. It's made of sturdy aircraft-grade aluminum with a non-slip grip. The **Portable Econorail** unsnaps to fit into its own tote. It measures 21 ½" long x 16" wide x 21 ½" high and weighs less than 2 lbs.



The Vendor says that no tools are needed to assemble the device and that it can support up to 300 lbs. It's available from Gold Violin for \$69.95.

Visit www.goldviolin.com or call 1-877-648-8400. Item # 93119.



Dear TOOLS Reader: We'd like to hear from you about your experiences with products you may have purchased after reading about them in TOOLS. Did they work? Did they meet your needs? And if they didn't work or meet your needs, tell us why. We also want to know if you experience any problem with vendors from which you order products. Your feedback will help us to make sure that we provide the most helpful information possible to you and other readers. Contact Mike Carbine, Editor, at editor@toolsforindependence.org or call him at (951) 653-0740 ext. 21

Take a Step up Safely and Securely...

...with the **Safety Step-Up Stool with 34" High Handle Platform**. This safety step-up tool, with an attractive chrome-plated finish, features a non-tip design and a 34" high handle platform. The stool is 9" high x 10" wide x 14" deep, and includes steel-reinforced rubber tips, a non-skid ribbed rubber mat, and chrome-plated steel tubing. The vendor says it has a weight capacity of 300 lbs. It's also handy for getting in and out of the pickup truck or a tall bed. It's available at Allegro Medical for \$47.08.



Visit www.allegromedical.com or call 1-800-861-3211 Item # 189021.

Hand Washing Your Dishes Will Be Easier...

...with the **Deluxe Suction Bottle Brush**. This bottle brush enables you to thoroughly washing your dishes with just one hand. The two 7" long brushes have stiff nylon bristles, and the brushes screw into a rubber base that can easily be secured to the bottom or the side of your sink. It's available for \$25.20 at South West Medical. Call 1-800-236-4215 or visit www.southwestmedical.com. Item # NC28222.



Check Out the TOOLS Resource Center

Our TOOLS Resource Center features links to organizations, other Web sites and groups that can provide you with useful information and help with your questions about assistive technology, care giving and independent living. The site also hosts updates and notes of interest, and a collection of back issues of the *TOOLS for Independence* newsletter. You can also take a survey and tell us how we can make TOOLS more helpful and useful for you.

Visit us at www.TOOLSforIndependence.org.

Create an Instant Light Wherever You Need It....

...with the cleverly designed **Ultra-Bright Light**. It looks just like a light switch, and it attaches anywhere with removable self-stick, hook -and-loop strips. And it needs no wiring. Just flip the switch and eight bright LED lights instantly illuminate dark areas inside or outside your home. The device is ideal for use in closets, cupboards or on the wall ext to your bed for an emergency light. The vendor says the energy-efficient LED bulbs last an amazing 100,000 hours.



The durable plastic housing measures about 4 ½" tall x 3" wide. Requires (3) AAA batteries (not included). It's available for \$6.00 at Make Life Easier.

Visit www.make-life-easier.com

or call 1-800-522-0227.

Item # 24963.

Take Your Time Eating, Because Your Food Will Always Be Warm...

...with the **Keep- Warm Dish**. It's designed especially for people who need a bit more time than usual to finish a meal. The vendor says the dish will always keep your food warm right up to the last mouth-full. Just open the port and fill the special chamber with hot water. The bowl weighs 2 lbs., is 2" high x 8" diameter and can hold up to 22 oz. of food. When filled with hot water, special handles let you move the dish without burning your hands. The dish comes with a plastic funnel for filling the water chamber. It's also top-rack dishwasher-safe. But the vendor cautions not to use this dish in the microwave. It's available for \$19.95 at Elder Depot. Visit www.elderdepot.com or call 1-800-910-7790. Item# WP383.





TOOLS for IndependenceTM

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This newsletter is published by the INDEPENDENT LIVING PARTNERSHIP (ILP)

ILP works to ensure 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.

Add 6" To Your Reach

The **Recliner Lever Extender** places the handle of your recliner within easy reach and provides easy adjustment for all types of reclining chairs. A four-bolt attachment ensures secure fit onto the recliner handle and the padded lever design protects the chair handle. The Vendor says the lever handle is 6 ½" wide, giving you more surface to grasp and adds 6" to your reach so that you don't have to strain to reach or pull the lever of your recliner back. You can check it out at Caregiver Products for \$22.50. Call 1-877-750-0376 or visit www.caregiverproducts.com Item # AST420.



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