

What are Environmental Adaptations?

Environmental adaptations allow for the manipulation of something in the environment that would otherwise be difficult or impossible to manage due to a disability.

What are Environmental Controls?

Environmental controls provide people with disabilities the ability to start, stop, or adjust electric or electronic devices.



Where and When do I need to use Environmental Adaptations or

Environmental adaptations or controls AT are used to operate battery-operated or electrical devices that require manipulation to operate the device. An adaptation or control is put in place to make working the device easier based on the individual's abilities. Devices that may need an adaptation or control can be found in all areas of a person's home, the workplace, and the community.

Who needs to use Environmental Adaptations and Controls?

Environmental adaptations and controls benefit anyone with a physical disability that limits their upper extremity control. Fine motor delays, spinal cord injuries, and neurodegenerative disorders are a few of the disabilities that might benefit from Environmental adaptations & controls. Anyone with a condition that limits strength or endurance may also benefit from this AT category.

Why are Environmental Adaptations & Controls Important?

These adaptations and controls can reduce or eliminate the need for human assistance in operating everyday battery-operated and electrical devices. Increased independence with everyday tasks results in increased self-efficacy,

which can carry over into other aspects of an individual's life.

Technology has many advantages, but careful consideration is needed to meet an individual's unmet needs in the community, educational, and employment settings. To learn more about navigating the world of Environmental Adaptations AT, visit Environmental Adaptations – Explore AT from AT3 Center. The assistive technology solutions provided on this site are intended as examples to give an idea of the types of Environmental Adaptations AT currently available in today's market. Also, remember to contact your AT Act Program to learn more and explore services available to help make an informed purchasing decision and obtain the AT needed.

Prepared by the Assistive Technology Act Training and Technical Assistance Center (AT3/AT3 Center). The AT3/AT3 Center is a project funded under the grant award #90ATTA0003 by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Community Living (ACL).