

A SIMPLE GUIDE TO PICKING A FAMILY FRIENDLY HOME STYLE

When you have a family, home layout matters more than finishes. The right layout supports safety, routines, and easier daily living.



**BARR
HOMES**

barrhomes.ca

At Barr Homes, we encourage families to think about layout early in the planning process. Early layout decisions help avoid compromises as family needs evolve.

This guide walks through common home styles and explains how each one works for family living:

1

START WITH HOW YOUR FAMILY USES SPACE

Before comparing options, consider how your household functions today and what may change in the coming years.

Pay attention to:

- Morning traffic around bathrooms and stairs
- Where kids play during the day
- How often family members need their own quiet time
- Whether daily life stays mostly on one level or across floors

2

SINGLE STOREY HOMES: SIMPLE AND ACCESSIBLE LIVING

Single storey homes work well for families who want everything within reach. All living spaces stay on one level, which makes supervision easier with younger children.

This style suits families who value:

- No stairs for toddlers or aging family members
- Easier access between bedrooms, bathrooms, and living areas
- Simpler and faster cleaning and maintenance across the home
- Hassle-free daily routines without constant up and down movement
- Faster cleaning and maintenance
- Easier navigation for strollers, mobility aids, and wheelchairs

However, lot size matters. Single storey homes usually need wider lots to maintain good room sizes and storage.

3

TWO STOREY HOMES: SEPARATION AND FLEXIBILITY

Two storey homes naturally separate living and sleeping zones. Many families appreciate this division once kids grow older and routines change.

This style works well if you want:

- Bedrooms away from main living noise
- Space for home offices or homework zones
- Better use of smaller lots without sacrificing square footage
- Greater flexibility in interior design choices
- Easier evacuation in emergencies
- Fewer safety modifications needed over time

Stairs affect how the home gets used every day. Good lighting, solid railings, and thoughtful placement can help avoid safety issues later.

4

SPLIT LEVEL HOMES

Split level homes divide living spaces across staggered half levels. Before choosing this layout, think about how often your family moves between rooms during the day.

Pay attention to:

- How frequently stairs are used between daily activities
- Where kids play and how easily they can be supervised
- How noise travels between staggered levels
- Whether short, frequent stair use feels manageable long term

A split level home works best when families are comfortable with regular movement between levels.



5

MULTI LEVEL HOMES

Multi level homes separate spaces across full floors. Before choosing this layout, consider how your family uses shared and private areas.

Pay attention to:

- Where bedrooms sit in relation to main living spaces
- How often family members move between floors
- How well the layout supports quiet and privacy
- Whether stair use fits into daily routines comfortably

A multi level home supports structure by clearly separating living and sleeping areas.

6

FOCUS ON LAYOUT ELEMENTS THAT SHAPE DAILY FAMILY LIFE

Bedrooms, living areas, storage, and outdoor space all affect how a family uses a home. Poor layouts can create daily friction long before a home feels too small.

Pay attention to:

- Whether a bedroom can convert into a nursery, office, or guest space
- How close bedrooms are for younger children
- How privacy works as children grow
- Kitchens with sightlines to play or living areas
- Living spaces that allow supervision without crowding
- Storage near entrances, kitchens, and bedrooms
- Direct outdoor access from main living areas
- Clear view from the windows for safe outdoor play

A well chosen home layout reduces daily friction and supports family life at every stage.