



Media Contact:

Virginia Piper
Access Designs
1304 East Market Street, Suite P
Charlottesville, VA 22902
Telephone: 434-295-0654 or
877-882-2887
Email: vapiper@accessdesigns.com
Web Address: www.tubcut.com

For Immediate Release

Innovative Product Prevents Falls in the Bath

Charlottesville entrepreneur's mission helps seniors remain in their homes – safely.

Charlottesville, VA. August 6, 2012. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), falls are the second leading cause of injury-related death for those aged 55 and over and the number one cause of injury-related death for those over 85. Thanks to Virginia-based Access Designs, serious injury in the bathroom is now being avoided with the invention of the “TubcuT.”

Bath remodeler Virginia Piper was working with the Marriott Corp. on a large retirement complex in the early 1990’s when a resident had had a serious fall which limited her mobility and required her to have shower-like access in the bathroom. Working with a tub set in concrete which couldn’t be modified easily into a shower, Piper had an idea: Cutting a section out of the tub, she was able to create easy step-through access and a lower profile.

And the TubcuT was born.

Piper’s tub modification is now being used by seniors in retirement communities and residential homes around the country. Priced at the fraction of the cost of a typical bathroom remodel, the TubcuT turns the tub into a walk-in shower within 4-6 hours and can be used within 24 hours. The modification can be made to any type of tub and has an attractive, factory like finish.

After her first Tubcut installation, Piper was awarded a grant from the Virginia Assistive Technology, with a matching grant from the Center of Innovative Technology, to create a reversibility option and to polish the final product. The TubcuT is the only environmental modification of its type which can be reversed – a popular feature for retirement communities who have incoming residents who prefer a tub, or for homeowners prior to resale.

According to Piper, “The TubcuT was created as I saw a huge need for an affordable product to answer the needs of folks who were finding it difficult - if not impossible - to step over the bathtub.”

In addition to getting calls from seniors and their adult children and caregivers, Piper is also seeing more requests from persons of all ages with limited mobility including individuals dealing with the effects of obesity.

The product also has personal significance to Piper, an adult child of a father who was an amputee: “He was much larger than I and we struggled daily thru the bathing routine. The cost to modify his bathroom was out of reach at over \$20,000.00. The difficult nature of his amputation, as well as the indignity of the bathing process, left a huge impression on me. This just further fueled my passion to create a safe solution for people who have mobility issues.”

The TubcuT is available throughout Virginia and the D.C. area by Access Designs, headquartered in Charlottesville. For more information or to schedule an installation, interested parties may call 434-295-0654 or 877-882-2887, email vapiper@tubcut.com or visit www.tubcut.com.

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