

3.2 Available assessment tools

While the focus of this resource is on the assessment tools developed from the work on the principles of design described earlier, the reader may wish to explore the use of other tools. The following information is provided to assist in accessing a range of tools and making a comparison and informed choice between them. Some key tools, in chronological order of their development, are:-

1. Therapeutic Environment Screening Survey for Nursing Homes (Tess-NH) (Sloane, Mitchell et al. 2002) – probably the most widely used environmental audit tool in the research setting. An extensive tool, most applicable to institutional style, residential care.
2. The Environmental Assessment Tool (EAT)* (Fleming, Forbes and Bennett 2003, Fleming 2011, Smith, Fleming et al. 2012) – used extensively in the evaluation of residential aged care facilities and can be usefully applied to healthcare settings where the length of stay is greater than a few days.
3. The Code Plus audit tool (Parke and Friesen 2003) – developed in Canada for use in healthcare settings providing care to elderly people.
4. Checklist of characteristics of dementia-friendly neighbourhoods (Burton, Mitchell et al. 2004) – pioneering work using walking interviews of people with dementia resulted in the first tool for the evaluation of the town centre environment.
5. The Improving the Environment for Older People in Healthcare Audit Tool (Black, Nankervis et al. 2006) – developed in Australia for use in healthcare settings providing care to elderly people (under review 2017).
6. Dementia Design Audit Tool (Dementia Services Development Centre 2011) – used extensively in the UK for the evaluation of nursing home environments
7. Residential Care Environment Assessment (Topo, Kotilainen et al. 2012) – developed in Finland to explore the ‘affordances’ provided by the environment, i.e. the positive or negative possibilities for action.
8. The Enhancing Healthy Environments (EHE) Assessment Tool (The Kings Fund 2014) – developed in the UK for use in healthcare settings providing care to people with dementia.
9. The General Hospital Audit tool/checklist (Cunningham, Galbraith et al. 2012) - developed in the UK for use in healthcare settings providing care to people with dementia.
10. Design Smart (Cunningham and McIntosh 2015) – developed in Australia to aid the evaluation residential aged care facilities.
11. The Environmental Assessment Tool* – Higher Care (EAT-HC) (Fleming and Bennett 2015) – a revision of the earlier EAT that is more sensitive to the needs of the less mobile person with dementia.
12. The Dementia Friendly Community – Environmental Assessment Tool (DFC-EAT) (Fleming, Bennett et al. International Psychogeriatrics: page 1 of 9 © International Psychogeriatric Association 2016 doi:10.1017/S1041610216001678) – developed in Australia to assist in the development of dementia friendly communities. Builds on the experience gained in the development of the EAT and EAT-HC.

* This tool has previously used Audit in the title rather than Assessment.