

COUNT DOWN THE NEW YEAR IN NYC



around the house - he has leg braces, but his legs are still not strong enough to walk without a walker. The house has handicap ramps and railings, and he had an elevator installed to get from the ground floor to the bedroom.

"He can sit on his deck and

enjoy the ocean but it still bothers him that there's no way for him to walk around on the beach."

Added the insider: "He has trouble sometimes accepting his body's limitations now, not being able to do the things that once came so easily.

"One thing that hasn't changed is the temper he displays when things don't go the way he wants them to.

"He still cusses a blue streak - and telling him he can't do something is like waving a red flag in front of a bull. As stubborn as ever,

he'll jokingly shoot back, 'You don't know Dick!'"

The pal maintains that despite all of his recent gains, many of the people working on ABC's New Year's special believe that it's doubtful Dick will be well enough to broadcast live from New York.

Said the pal: "One executive admitted, 'I think he's not nearly to the point where he can host a live show. If he makes it to Times Square, even if it's just for the beginning of the countdown, it will be a New Year's miracle come true.'"

When contacted by The National Enquirer, Dick's rep said: "Prepare for a miracle because, barring any change in the current status, he will be in New York to do the show."