

Making Your Home More Accessible

A Checklist for Aging in Place



These simple modifications might not require a contractor. They can make life safer and easier very quickly, without much of a money or time investment.

- Install levered door handles for ease of use.
- Install grab bars in the bath, shower, and near the toilet to help prevent falls.
- Remove throw rugs to create clear passages.
- Add more lighting to hallways, bathrooms, bedrooms, and anywhere else a person might walk through in the middle of the night. Motion-sensing lights are often a great option for additional peace of mind.
- If your home has steps, install sturdy handrails on both sides, if possible.



- Consider replacing kitchen and bathroom faucets with levered or motion-sensing models.
- Add a fold-down seat in the shower.
- Choose detachable and adjustable showerheads with at least a six-inch reach.
- Intercom systems can allow someone to call for help from anywhere in the home.
- Rocker or touch light switches are great for those with limited mobility.
- Consider using audible and visual strobe light systems, such as flashing phones for the hearing impaired or loud alarms for the vision impaired.

- Add accented stripes on the edge of all countertops for visual orientation.
- Place task lighting in strategic areas in the kitchen.
- Add bright lights to shower spaces.
- Install loop handles in the kitchen and bathroom for easy gripping and pulling.
- Invest in an easy-to-read, programmable thermostat installed no higher than 48 inches from the floor.
- Install self-feeding systems for homes with pets.



Some home accessibility modifications may require a trusted contractor or service, such as:

- A walk-in tub can fit the space of an existing tub, and offer sturdy grab bars, slip-resistant flooring, and water temperature protection
- Motorized stair lifts help homeowners travel up and down stairwells safely.
- Medical alert systems range in capabilities based on priorities, concerns and personal health. Medical providers and families can be alerted and dispatched based on needs.

Whether you're preparing to age in place or just wanting to make your space feel more like home, Modernize can help kick-start all your home improvement projects.

Get started today >