

# Your home needs a retirement plan too!



*—Remodeling Help For Today's Homeowners—*



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What will it  
take to make  
our home  
accommodate  
our changing  
physical  
capabilities?

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*When we start thinking about retirement lots of things come to mind. What will I do with this next stage in life? Start a new venture? Pick up a new hobby? Spend time with the grand kids? What we almost never think about is what it will take to make our home accommodate our changing physical capabilities.*

## Your home needs to plan for retirement too.

Everyone probably knows someone who has had a knee or hip replacement in order to extend their physical capabilities and provide a pain-free life for as long as possible. Homes are no different. They need to change to keep up with you. So, whether you're in your late 50s looking ahead or a family member helping aging parents, making the right home modifications ensures safety, comfort, and longevity in a home.

## Planning begins with Aging-in-Place

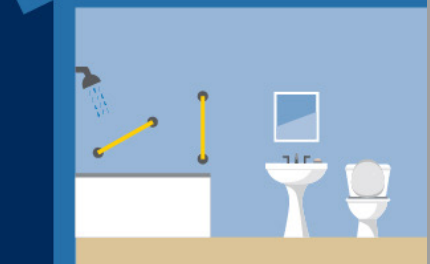
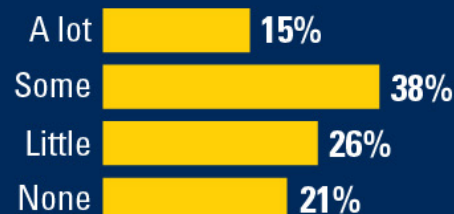
Let's begin with the concept of Aging in place—the ability to stay in your home comfortably as you grow older. Remember, most homes weren't designed with aging in mind. Frankly, they weren't designed to scale with a growing family. It was just assumed you'd move to a bigger home. Features that were once minor inconveniences, such as narrow doorways, high-maintenance flooring, or a lack of accessible bathrooms, will become significant challenges for seniors wanting to

### Aging in place AMONG ADULTS AGE 50–80

**88%**

believe it's  
important to  
age in place

#### Consideration given to modifications needed to remain at home:



NATIONAL POLICY ON HEALTHY AGING, UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



stay in their home for as long as possible.

## Key Areas in Assessing your home

### 1. Entryways & Exterior Accessibility

- Zero-step entryways: Installing a ramp or grading a walkway eliminates tripping hazards.
- Wider doorways: At least 36 inches wide to accommodate walkers or wheelchairs.
- Lever-style handles: Easier to operate than traditional round doorknobs.
- Adequate lighting: [Motion-sensor lights](#) improve visibility and security.

### 2. Bathroom Safety & Accessibility

- Curbless showers with seating: Safer than traditional tubs or high-step showers.
- Grab bars with stylish designs: They can double as towel racks for a discreet look.
- Comfort-height toilets: Easier to sit down on and stand up from.
- Non-slip flooring: Reduces the risk of falls, especially when wet.
- Handheld showerheads and thermostatic controls: Improve usability and temperature safety.





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“I realized I  
don’t hate to  
cook, I just  
hated my  
kitchen!”

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### 3. Kitchen Modifications for Ease of Use

- Multi-level countertops: Allow for comfortable use while seated or standing.
- Pull-out shelves and drawers: Reduce strain from bending and reaching.
- Induction cooktops: Reduce the risk of burns by eliminating open flames.
- Touchless faucets, pot fillers, and ergonomic cabinet handles: Provide ease of use.
- Better lighting: Task lighting under cabinets enhances visibility for food prep and safety.



Questions? Call us at  
763-780-3262 or use  
this contact form.





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Lift assists homeowner to move from bedroom to bathtub.



all of a sudden things happen  
especially as you age.

Client/Designer interview describes how the home was remodeled to deliver greater independence in case her husband and caregiver is no longer fulfill that role. [Click to view...](#)

#### 4. Bedroom & Sleeping Arrangements

- First-floor master suite: Avoids the need for stairs.
- Stair lifts for second floor access: Mobility with safety.
- Wider doorways and space to maneuver: Essential for wheelchair or walker access.
- Lighting controls at bedside: Prevents trips at night.
- Smart home integration: Voice-activated lights or blinds for convenience and control.

#### 5. Living & Common Areas for Comfort

- Open floor plans: Reduce barriers and improve mobility.
- Smooth, non-slip flooring: Hardwood, vinyl, or low-pile carpet can prevent trips.
- Built-in seating areas: Reduce the need for extra furniture that clutters space.
- Home automation: Smart thermostats, security, and lighting improve convenience and safety.



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The best  
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before you  
need it

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## 4 Benefits of the Design/Build Approach

Unlike hiring separate designers and contractors, a design/build firm offers a streamlined process that ensures your home modifications are cohesive, cost-effective, and high quality. Here's why this approach is ideal for retirement planning:

1. Customized Design Solutions – A design/build team works with you to create a home that meets your current and future needs while maintaining beauty and function.
2. Cost Transparency – A phased design process allows for better scope and budget planning, avoiding unexpected costs down the road.
3. Expert Guidance – With experienced professionals guiding everything from planning to construction, you avoid common pitfalls.
4. Seamless Execution – Having one team manage the entire project minimizes stress and delays

## When to Start Planning Your Home for Retirement

The best time to plan for a retirement-ready home is before you need it. Remember, If you're in your 50s or 60s, gradual updates can spread costs over time while ensuring you enjoy the benefits immediately.

Murphy Bros. has teamed up with home health care and financial planning partners to present a comprehensive understanding of areas you should be aware of in planning to stay as long as you can in your home. We call it the "Forever Home" seminar and you can find out details to attend by calling us at 763-780-3262.

## Final Thoughts: Making Your Home Work for Your Future

The cost of moving to a senior living complex is expensive. In many cases, more expensive than an aging in place remodel would be to stay in the home you love. Your home should be a place of comfort and security for decades to come.



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this contact form.