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| **Plan Now If You Want to Spend Your Golden Years at Home****About 90% of folks who are turning 65 plan to spend at least another 10 years in their homes, and many never intend to leave.1 We take a look at the most common upgrades needed in order to accommodate your future needs for comfort, access, and safety as you age in place.**The first step should be to take a thorough assessment of your current home and determine where the design falls short. You will benefit by planning and budgeting your remodeling projects now to see whether it makes sense to remain in your current home rather than move elsewhere.**Safety should be your top priority.** Your goal is to prevent injuries and increase safe mobility. You can start by adding grab bars to bathroom showers and toilets, and perhaps near your bed as well. Outdoor ramps allow safe entry/exit if your mobility is compromised. If you live in a multi-story house, consider a stair lift. Also, upgrade your home technology to incorporate remote monitoring and medical alert technology for added safety.**Consider upgrades that enhance convenience.** For example, you can replace your current faucets with touchless ones to remedy grip issues. In the same vein, replace standard doorknobs with levers for easier operation. In the bathroom, you can add safety and convenience with comfort-height toilets, shower seating, and walk-in showers. To reduce the chances of tripping and falling, update your bathroom with ADA-approved anti-slip flooring.**Focus on accessibility throughout the house.** You can make it easier to access rooms and appliances in several ways. Widening a doorway or hallway may be necessary if you will use a wheelchair. A more ambitious remodel would be to lower the height of kitchen cabinets and appliances to make them easier to reach. You can also improve accessibility by raising electrical outlets and lowering wall switches.**Should you downsize?** Even if you are willing to invest in making your current home safer and more accessible, is it the right decision? Many people decide they need less space when they retire, and by downsizing monthly housing costs are reduced. Furthermore, you might be able to move into a new, smaller unit that was built for those wishing to age in place. Typically, these units would be single story with comprehensive safety and accessibility features.**Prepare budgets for your major alternatives.** You should understand the costs involved in remodeling vs. moving before deciding on a course of action. If you are approaching retirement, please contact me to discuss your options. Together, we can explore which alternatives make the most sense for your unique circumstances.

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| 1[www.consumeraffairs.com/homeowners/aging-in-place-home-modifications.html](https://www.consumeraffairs.com/homeowners/aging-in-place-home-modifications.html) [08/15/19]Tracking #1-05127477Expiration 04/24 |

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