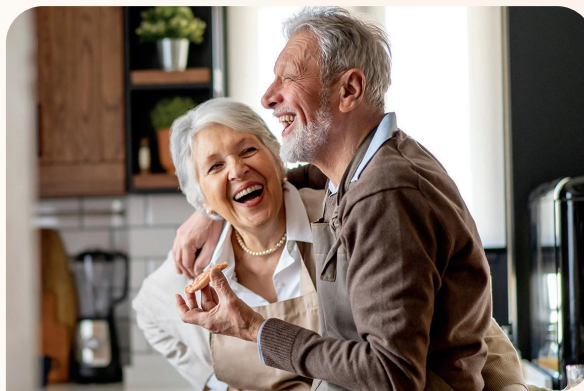


Comfort and Safety in Your Forever Home

As we get older, home safety becomes essential if you want to continue living independently at home. To help you live independently for a longer time, consider these modifications:

- A walk-in bathtub with a handheld showerhead, grab bars, and seating.
- A taller toilet for easier sitting and standing.
- A stair lift.
- A shorter countertop for sitting while prepping food in the kitchen.
- A countertop microwave and French door fridge for easier reaching.
- A stove that alerts you when a burner has been left on.
- Sufficient lighting, voice-activated lights, a bathroom night light, stair and hallway lights, and solar lights for outdoor paths.
- Chairs with armrests for easier sitting and standing, and a bench for sitting to put on and remove shoes.



- Consider widening doorways within the house for wheelchair accessibility.

Gradual investments in your home leading up to your elderly years can help prevent accidents, giving you a better chance of living a longer, happier, and healthier life.



Lighting Into the Future

Do you want to save energy, increase convenience, and at the same time upgrade your home's value? Smart lighting is a good way to do all three. If you're not sure where to begin, read on.

With smart lighting, you can **control your lights through an app on your phone or a central smart hub**. In addition to **switching lights off and on, typically you can also control the brightness and even set automated routines**, like gradually increasing the light in the morning to simulate sunrise.

One of the convenient features of most smart lighting is **voice command**. For example, using voice command to switch off the lights instead of getting out of bed. Other smart lights also have **motion sensors** to switch on and off with movement.

Smart lighting is available in a variety of forms, from **bulbs** that fit into standard sockets (note, you must keep the switch always turned on for smart capability), to smart **switches** that can be used with both regular and smart bulbs, and smart **plugs**, which are ideal for plug-in fixtures like lamps. Smart lights are also available in **different styles**, such as chandeliers, garden lighting, and LED strip lighting.

Whatever smart lights you choose, choose **Matter-compatible** lights, which ensures compatibility between different smart devices.

Getting Your Home Back to School Ready

The countdown is on for back to school. If you have school-aged kids, now's the time to prep for the busy days ahead. So, how can you get your home ready for the rush?

- Organize your entryway with a place to hang jackets and a spot for essentials you might need just before you go (e.g., sunglasses and keys).
- Declutter clothes and books, donating or selling items your kids have outgrown.
- Designate a study area with ample space, good lighting, and a comfortable chair. This could be in the kitchen so you can supervise homework while cooking, at the dining table, or at a desk in your child's bedroom. Also, organize and stock up on school supplies.
- Organize cupboard space for lunch containers. Create a spot for quick and healthy after-school snacks like fruit and nuts, and reserve space in the fridge for perishable snacks like yogurt, cheese, and cut-up vegetables.
- Have a spot to hang art and test scores, such as a pegboard, a string with clothespins, or a classic spot, the fridge.



With a little preparation, the whole family can be more relaxed to start the school year off right.