MoAT
MISSOURI ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

Home Modification

Does it have to be so hard?

Scout Merry

Aging in Place

Older adults overwhelmingly want to stay in their homes (75 percent) and communities (73 percent), but many (44 percent) feel a move is inevitable, according to AARP's latest survey.

Over 90% of older adults prefer living at home to an assisted living facility later in life

Only 10% of homes are "aging ready" to accommodate older adults

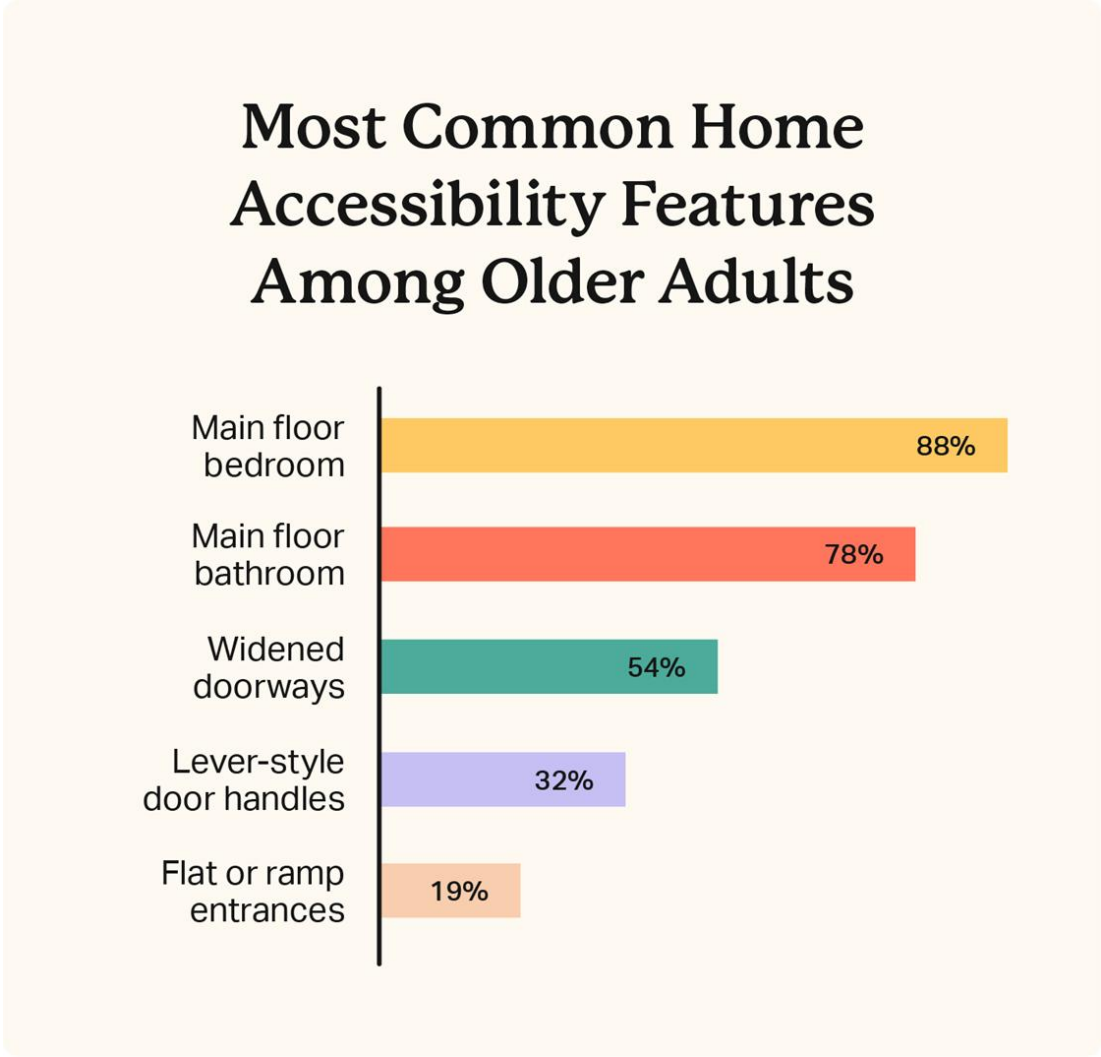
Home modifications for accessibility can cost up to **$100,000**

Choice Mutual Insurance (next 2 slides)

Top 5 Reasons Older Adults Want to Age in Place



Commonly Identified Features



Invest in Home Modifications for Safety

Perform a home safety check to identify updates that can prevent falls and accidents, such as:

- Handrails on stairs and hallway
- Shower seats and bathroom grab bars
- Nonslip flooring or rugs
- Ramps or zero-step entrances for easier access
- Lever-style door handles instead of knobs
- Improved lighting, especially in hallways, kitchens, and bathrooms

Medical alert systems are also a good investment in case of emergencies.

Aging In Place: Statistics + How To Prepare In 2026

Anthony Martin

Updated on September 03, 2026

distinguishes between **simple, inexpensive modifications** and more complex changes.

Simple Modifications May include:

- Removing clutter from walkways
- Moving electrical cords
- Securing or removing rugs
- Improving lighting
- Installing nightlights
- Adding non-slip materials
- Storing frequently used items within easy reach
- Keeping pet supplies out of walking paths

Housing stock – entrances

Our housing stock woes



AI added a ramp for us



Home Mods -entries

Threshold ramps

Curb ramps

Suitcase ramps

Modular ramps

Wooden ramps

Lighting

Handrails

Low rise stairs

Platform lifts

Outdoor stair lifts

Earth moving and concrete

ADA Guidelines

They do not apply to private homes

These guidelines are designed to allow access for most people with physical limitations

These guidelines do not ensure access for all and are not designed for any individual needs

However, the guidelines can be very useful for someone designing or remodeling for access.

- Ramps should have edge protection, level landings and attention to slope
- Handrails should have an easily gripable diameter
- Reach ranges are important if the user is in a wheelchair
- It is good to pay attention to the path of travel

Shorter Ramps



4” Threshold ramp ~$100



4 Foot track ramps ~ $200

Low rise stairs



Accessible with a walker



Not for walker use

Build it in or add it on



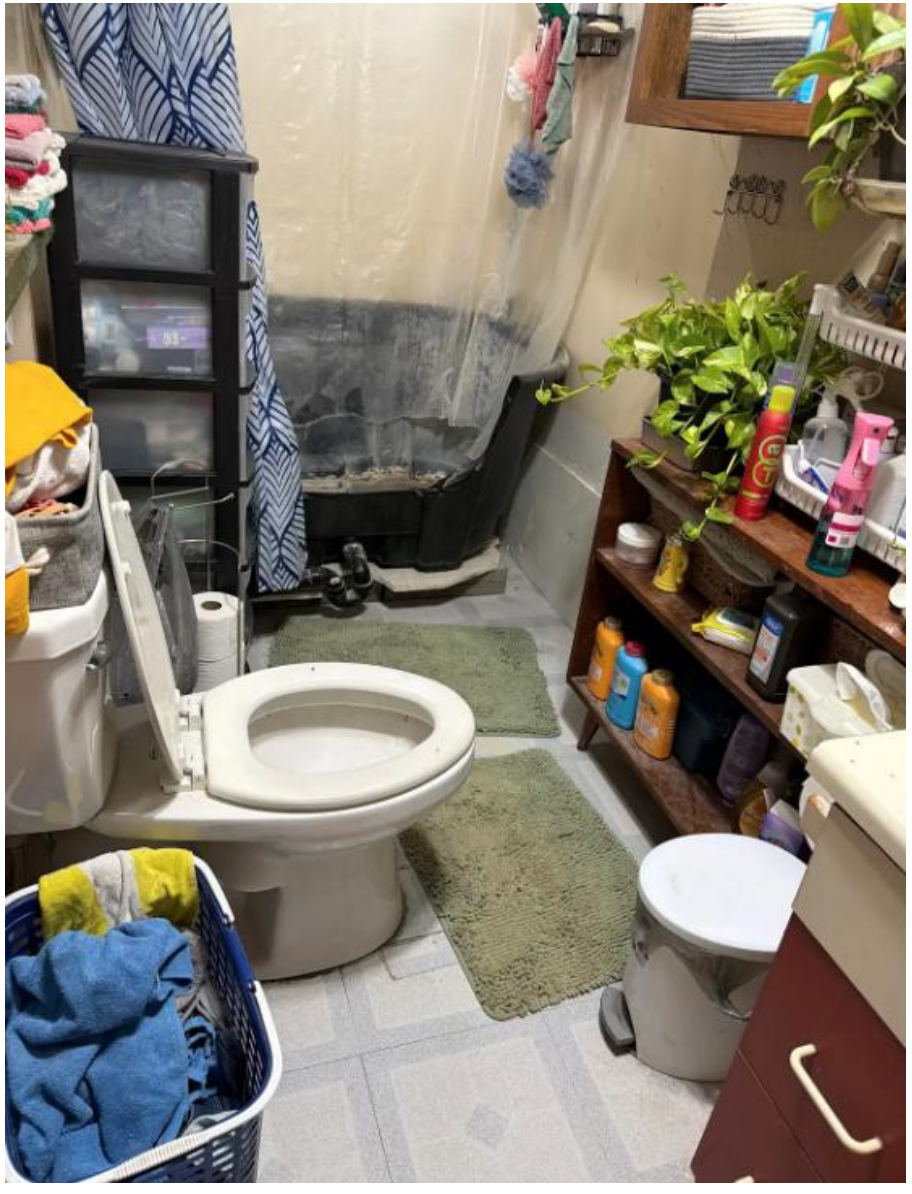


8 foot modular (w handrails) ~$1,200

Bathrooms



Real Life



Home mods - bathrooms

There are many low cost additions that can be added for safety. Many of these are under $100.

- Clamp on grab bars
- Grab bars
- Shower chairs/benches
- Bath lifts
- Dispensers
- Faucet extensions
- Hand held shower
- Door options
- Stool risers
- 3/1 commodes
- Toilet safety frame
- Dignity lift
- Bidets
- Transport wheelchair/rollator

Very low cost additions



Clamp on Grab Bar < $50

Shampoo Dispenser < $30



Bathroom Access - Access



Barn Style Door



Transport Wheelchair



Sliding Transfer Bench

Bathroom Access - Bath Lift



sper Lift by
ve ~$500







Bathroom Tub Cut



[Tub Cut Kit]

A tub cut is another option for some homes. This can be a DIY or small job for a contractor if the conditions are right.

$475

Bathroom Access – wet room





Stairways



Stairway Options

- Stair climbing cane
- Stair rail handle
- Stair chair
- Stair lift (or two)
- Elevator

Stair Canes ~$50





Less common options





Assi Step Stair Climbing Aid



Battery Powered Emergency Stair Chair $1,400

Kitchens



Access - Pull out kitchen drawers





Access added to shelving

Pull out shelving can be drawers or an add on to a shelf. This is a low cost way to make almost any shelf more accessible. And it works!

Rev a Shelf



Access and Accessible



Pull down shelving ~$170 and up

Tovala Smart Oven $300



Lighting

Whether it is a brighter bulb, a bigger light or more lights – it may help in many ways.







Task Lighting





Task lighting can make the room or just the area feel more accessible.

They can be motion, switch or remote activated, depending on preferences.

Funding

Home modifications for any needs can be very expensive. Sometimes finding a temporary or intermediary solution can help.

Sometimes that solution can be durable medical equipment.

Reuse programs around the state may be able to help with those needs.

https://at.mo.gov/device-reutilization/

Also

STL HELP

Medical Loan Closet of Joplin

Other local DME closets

When home modifications are a need, not a want, sometimes additional funding is required.

The Show Me Loan program from MO Assistive Technology may be able to help. This is a low interest loan to help cover AT or home modification needs.

UADA Rural Development also has low interest loans as well as some grants for home modifications. USDA Loans and Grants

Check your local AAA to help find funding in your area. MA4 can help with that!

The end…for now

Home modifications, like any support, need to be specifically designed to support an individual.

There is no generic design for aging.

Make sure to talk through the person's wants as well as needs to come up with the right modifications at the right time.



Thank You!

Questions?

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