

## Questions to Help You Decide to Age in Place or Move

**Directions:** Respond to each question by placing a check mark (✓) in the yes, no, or not sure column. If you answered yes, write estimated costs of listed items in the right column. Estimated life expectancy in years of some appliances is provided in the right column.

Questions	Yes	No	Not Sure	If you answer yes, write estimated costs
Does your home need some modifications to accommodate your possible future mobility or disability?				<input type="checkbox"/> Outside sidewalk and front and back stoop made accessible: <input type="checkbox"/> Ramp, vertical platform lift, or elevator: <input type="checkbox"/> Widening of doors inside and out: <input type="checkbox"/> Lower counters and cupboard: <input type="checkbox"/> Bedroom on first floor: <input type="checkbox"/> Bathroom on first floor: <input type="checkbox"/> Raised toilets, grab bars, and railings:
<p>Is it likely that major systems and appliances will break down?</p> <p>When do you expect the life of these appliances to end?</p> <p><i>(Answer this question to the right of each appliance in the far right column.)</i></p>				(life expectancy in years) <input type="checkbox"/> Heating system: (20 years) <input type="checkbox"/> Air conditioner: (12 years) <input type="checkbox"/> New air cleaner: <input type="checkbox"/> New humidifier: <input type="checkbox"/> Water heater: (13 years) <input type="checkbox"/> Dishwasher: (12 years) <input type="checkbox"/> Refrigerator: (20 years) <input type="checkbox"/> Freezer (20 years) <input type="checkbox"/> Washer: (13 years) <input type="checkbox"/> Dryer: (18 years) <input type="checkbox"/> Wall oven, stove, or range top: (18 yrs) <input type="checkbox"/> Generator for emergencies: <input type="checkbox"/> Sump pump and battery backup: (15 yrs)
<p>Is it likely that major house exterior work will need to be changed or repaired?</p> <p>When do you expect these major house exterior works to be updated or repaired?</p> <p><i>(Answer this question to the right of each house exterior work in the far right column.)</i></p>				<input type="checkbox"/> New roof: <input type="checkbox"/> New siding or painting on siding: <input type="checkbox"/> New gutter and soffit and fascia: <input type="checkbox"/> Tuck pointing brick exterior walls and/or chimney flue: <input type="checkbox"/> New windows: <input type="checkbox"/> New outside doors: <input type="checkbox"/> New sliding door: <input type="checkbox"/> New driveway: <input type="checkbox"/> New garage door: <input type="checkbox"/> Sewer line maintenance: <input type="checkbox"/> Water well/holding tank:

continued

Questions	Yes	No	Not Sure	If you answer yes, write estimated costs
Is it likely the neighborhood will decline and pose a hazard for you and/or your loved ones?				<input type="checkbox"/> Door locks: <input type="checkbox"/> Security system:
Do you need to install smoke and carbon monoxide detector systems in the home?				<input type="checkbox"/> Smoke alarm or fire alarm: <input type="checkbox"/> Carbon monoxide detector:
Are you willing to find and pay someone to help with your lawn and garden care and outside maintenance (gutters and snow removal) when you can no longer physically care for them?				<input type="checkbox"/> Mowing: <input type="checkbox"/> Fertilizing: <input type="checkbox"/> Seeding: <input type="checkbox"/> Weeding: <input type="checkbox"/> Planting: <input type="checkbox"/> Leaf removal: <input type="checkbox"/> Tree and shrub removal: <input type="checkbox"/> Cleaning out gutters: <input type="checkbox"/> Shoveling snow from sidewalks: <input type="checkbox"/> Shoveling from driveway:
When you can no longer drive, have you thought about how you will get to the places you must go such as appointments, grocery store, grooming, events, or other shopping needs?				<input type="checkbox"/> Taxi: <input type="checkbox"/> Senior transportation: <input type="checkbox"/> Train: <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer drivers—their gasoline, etc.: <input type="checkbox"/> Family member(s): <input type="checkbox"/> Friend(s):
Are you willing to find and pay for outside help when you are no longer able to do indoor chores?				<input type="checkbox"/> Cooking: <input type="checkbox"/> Home cleaning: <input type="checkbox"/> Laundry: <input type="checkbox"/> Interior home maintenance:
Are you willing to find and pay someone to assist with activities of daily activities such as bathing, moving from one location to another, eating, dressing, and going to the toilet?				
Do you have the money to hire the help you may need overall?				

**Sources:** *10 Secrets to Successful Home Buying and Selling: Using Your Housing Psychology to Make Smarter Decisions* by Lois A. Vitt, Ph. D., 2005. Chicago Consumer Sounding Board sponsored by University of Illinois Extension, Countryside, IL.

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