

Requirements for Selecting a Private Residence

Our current home is the option most of us have in mind for our retirement years. We imagine that we will live in our existing home until we pass away or until we're required to move for health reasons.

While aging in place may seem like a simple enough decision, it comes with many

considerations and requirements to ensure that you are safe, well-cared-for, and in close proximity to all the services and individuals you will need in your later years. Remember, the goal here is that you will be able to stay in this home all the way until the end, which means you need to envision what it will take to receive care in this home.

The requirements are:

1. Age-Friendly Home (both structure and location)
2. Financial Resources (to provide aid in this home if required)
3. Family/Social Support (to oversee your care when the time comes)

Let's take a look at those requirements.



1) Age-Friendly Home: Structure & Location

There are a couple of aspects to consider when evaluating the private residence where you are going to live in your later years. You'll want to be assured that you can live here safely when you are older, or if you develop an illness or medical condition. Homes that address these

considerations effectively are called "Age-Friendly." To see if your residence of choice is Age-Friendly, take a look at the structure itself, and the neighborhood where the home is located.

► First of all, the residence needs to be Age-Friendly.

Whether or not your home is Age-Friendly comes down to a few main features. One great reference for the structural features of an Age-Friendly home are the rules of Universal Design. Think about the home you have in mind. Does it include these features?

- No-step entries
- Single-floor living, which eliminates the need to navigate stairs
- Switches and outlets reachable at any height
- Extra-wide hallways and doors to accommodate wheelchairs
- Lever-style door and faucet handles

These features ensure that it is safe to remain in your home while you age. Unfortunately, it is estimated that only 1% of homes in America have these five basic features that make a home Age-Friendly.¹

► The next thing to consider is if your home is in an Age-Friendly neighborhood.

Try to imagine these considerations in a future where you may be slowing down or more vulnerable.

- Do you feel safe walking around?
- Are medical facilities nearby?
- Are emergency responders readily available?
- Are grocery stores and drugstores conveniently located?

¹ Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University. (2014). Housing America's older adults- Meeting the needs of an aging population. Retrieved from www.jchs.harvard.edu/sites/default/files/jchs-housing_americas_older_adults_2014_1.pdf