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Everything You Need to Know About Choosing a Home for Your Senior Years

When you’re a senior, looking to your future can be both exciting and intimidating. Your responsibilities are lightening, you have the wisdom to know what’s important in life, and you’re ready to make some changes. However, you might not know what will be best for your circumstances, and this can be especially true with your living environment. Selecting the right place to come home to can be tough, so [The Mathis Group](https://www.mathisgroupusa.com/) sorted the main points to help with your decision.

**Three Primary Options**

There is much to consider as you look to your golden years, and in the end, most seniors end up choosing one of three main options. Seniors with more houses than they need often choose to downsize, and many seniors choose to stay put and make home modifications. If they are experiencing quality-of-life concerns, seniors sometimes opt for assisted living. Each choice is worthwhile, but it takes some thinking to decide what’s right for you.

With that in mind, many seniors find it helpful to become more familiar with the area housing market. Learn the prices that homes similar to yours are selling for (in Savannah, for example, houses sell for a median price of [$250,000](https://www.redfin.com/city/17651/GA/Savannah/housing-market)), what it costs to purchase a smaller house, and what percentage people typically pay as their down payment. Armed with this information, you can start sorting your options.

**Purposeful Paring Down**

Downsizing can provide a [number of benefits](https://tritonfinancialgroup.com/benefits-of-downsizing-your-home/) to seniors, such as better organization, reduced costs, and less stress. It’s a chance to pare down on the amount of work you do keeping up your property, and with careful planning, you can also cut your living costs.

It’s important to remember that along with less house to tend, you'll also have less space for your stuff. While that might sound obvious, many people are caught by surprise when moving day comes along, and the new place is outmatched by their belongings.

With that in mind, start decluttering right away, and if you have things you aren’t sure about keeping, rent a storage unit so you can set those items aside for now. That way, you can take some time to settle in at your new place and see if you really want those things or if you’re ready to let them go.

**Stay Put, with Changes**

Making a few changes to your home is a proactive measure for your future self, creating a safer home environment to support your aging joints and eyes. As AgingCare explains, some [modifications](https://www.agingcare.com/articles/home-modification-for-senior-friendly-living-104573.htm) can make the difference in staying secure, mobile, and self-reliant. By starting now, you can even spread them out over time, which can be easier on your budget.

Consider doing things like improving visibility with [enhanced lighting](https://bestmobilityaids.com/lighting-for-senior-living/) and using more contrasting colors in your home. [Replacing door knobs](https://premiumhardware.net/how-to-replace-an-interior-door-handle/) with lever-grip handles can help older hands, especially if you should need to use any assistive equipment, such as a cane or wheelchair. Similarly, installing a ramp at one entryway (which can cost between [$3,500 and $8,000](https://www.networx.com/article/wheelchair-ramp-cost)) keeps you on the go, whether you’re using a wheelchair or carrying groceries. Look at your home with a discerning eye, and contemplate what will help you remain independent through the years.

**Transition to a Community**

Assisted living communities have much to offer older adults, especially those with particular health concerns. For example, if you have a limitation, an assisted living community provides staff that can help with [day-to-day things](https://www.choosecomforthome.com/the-6-activities-of-daily-living/) like dressing, toileting, and meals. Similarly, seniors who are in danger of becoming [isolated](https://www.leisurecare.com/resources/dangers-of-senior-isolation/) often find the transition provides a big boost to their quality of life. Being lonely can lead to various health ramifications, both physically and mentally, and staying connected can result in a longer, happier life.

As you weigh your options, give some careful thought to your current situation and your future needs. Downsizing, home modifications, and assisted living are all great choices, and your personal circumstances will dictate the best option for you. Where you live is a big decision, and once you mull things over, you’ll know what to do.

If you find that downsizing is the best route to take, work with [The Mathis Group](https://www.mathisgroupusa.com/) to ensure that the process goes smoothly. You can reach us at 912-324-2599.