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Home Repairs and Modifications Checklist

This is a two-part form. Use Part I to check for ways you can make your home safer and more functional. (Remember that not all of these items will apply to you.) Then, if you decide to hire a contractor or handyman, use Part II as a guide in making a smart selection.

Part I: Check for Ways to Make Your Home Safer and More Functional

	High Priority	Low Priority	Doesn't Apply
Basic home upkeep:			
Repair or upgrade . . .			
✓ roof, gutters			
✓ stairs, railings			
✓ plumbing			
✓ electrical system			
✓ heating and air conditioning			
✓ appliances			
Safety improvements:			
Reset water heater to 120° or less			
Install or upgrade . . .			
✓ non-slip, non-glare flooring			
✓ low-pile carpeting			
✓ handrails on stairs			
✓ grab bars in bathroom			
✓ lighting, task-lighting, nightlights			
✓ view-hole in front door			
✓ locks or deadbolts on doors and windows			

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	High Priority	Low Priority	Doesn't Apply
Accessibility and independence:			
Add . . .			
✓ kitchen easy-grip knobs, pulls			
✓ rocker or touch-type switches			
✓ wheelchair or walker access			
Rearrange things for one-story living			
Comfort and convenience:			
Add . . .			
✓ low-upkeep landscaping			
✓ cordless phone			
✓ automatic garage door opener			
Energy efficiency:			
Install . . .			
✓ storm windows, double-paned windows			
✓ weather-stripping and other insulation			
✓ more efficient heating, air conditioning			
✓ insulation on water heater, pipes			
✓ more efficient appliances			

Part II: Checklist for Hiring a Contractor

If you're planning to hire a contractor or handyman, be sure to do your homework first!

- ❑ Get recommendations from friends, family, reputable local merchants.
- ❑ Make certain the contractor is bonded and licensed.
- ❑ Ask for at least three recent customer references, then call each one.
- ❑ Check with the Better Business Bureau to make sure the record is clean.
- ❑ Get the price, completion date, scope of work, and other details in writing.
- ❑ If appropriate, ask for two or more bids, then compare.

Notes