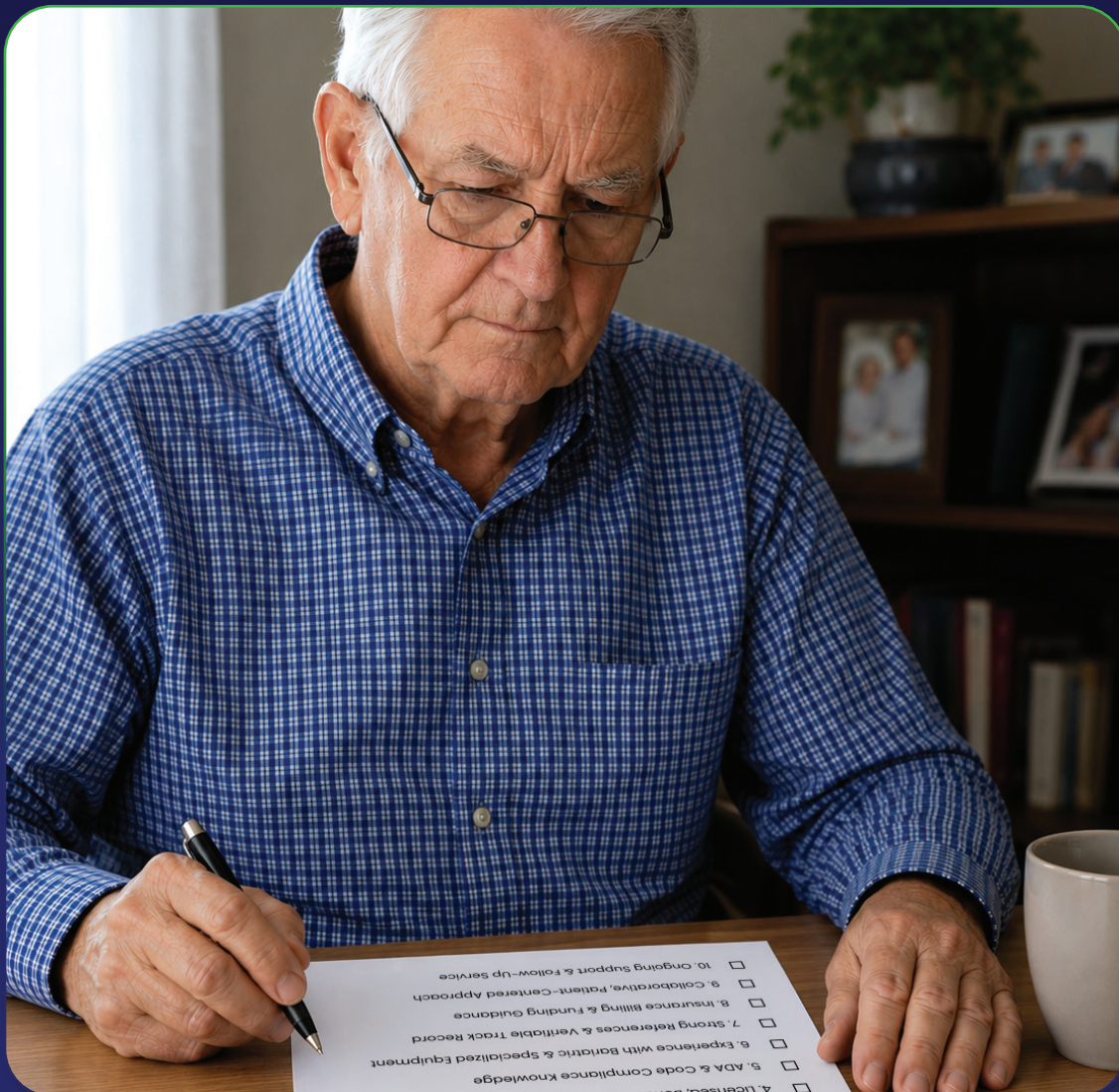
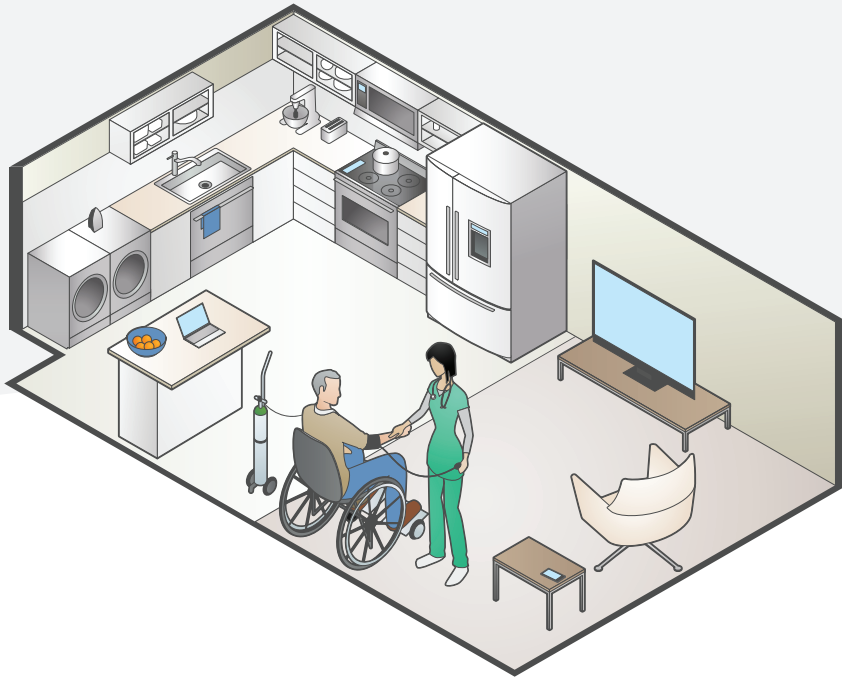


Hiring a Contractor Checklist: 10 Smart Criteria for Hiring a Home Safety & Aging-in-Place Contractor





1. Certified Aging-in-Place Expertise

Look for contractors with a CAPS (Certified Aging-in-Place Specialist) designation from the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), or equivalent credentials. This ensures they understand the unique physical, functional, and lifestyle needs of older adults, not just general remodeling.





2. Comprehensive Home Safety Assessment Process

A qualified specialist like Smart Medical should begin with a thorough in-home evaluation, assessing fall risks, mobility limitations, bathroom hazards, entryway barriers, and overall layout. The assessment should be conducted by or in coordination with a licensed occupational therapist or healthcare professional for a clinical perspective.

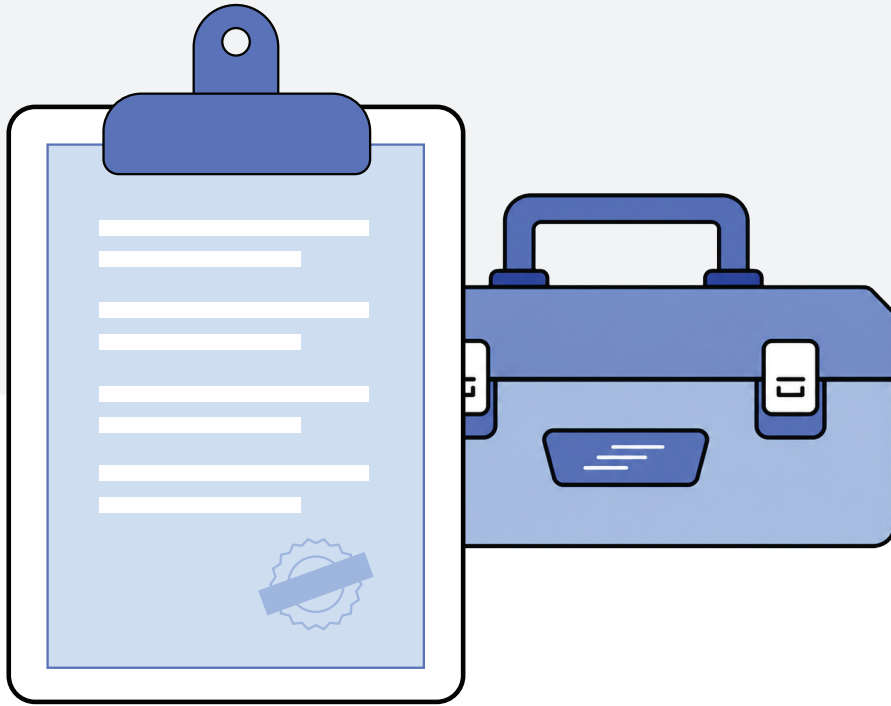




3. Full-Spectrum of Products & Modifications

The contractor should offer an integrated range of solutions, from structural modifications (ADA bathrooms, vertical platform lifts, accessibility ramps) to durable medical equipment (grab bars, homecare beds, stair glides, transfer poles, raised toilet seats). A one-stop provider like Smart Medical eliminates the coordination burden of multiple vendors.





4. Licensed, Bonded & Insured

Always verify that the contractor holds the proper state and local contractor licenses, carries general liability insurance, and is bonded. This protects you financially if something goes wrong during installation or modification.





5. ADA & Code Compliance

Knowledge Modifications must meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards and local building codes. An experienced specialist will know the exact specifications for doorway widths, ramp slopes, grab bar load requirements, and bathroom layout clearances, avoiding costly rework down the road





6. Experience with Bariatric & Specialized Equipment

Not all contractors understand the load-bearing, spatial, and clinical requirements of bariatric equipment, heavy-duty homecare beds, or vertical platform lifts. Smart Medical's specialization in bariatric solutions is a meaningful differentiator for seniors with higher-weight or complex mobility needs.





7. Strong References & Verifiable Track Record

Ask for references from senior clients specifically, and look for online reviews on platforms like Google, Yelp, or the Better Business Bureau. A contractor with a proven history of aging-in-place projects will have testimonials that speak to quality, reliability, and sensitivity to senior needs.





8. Insurance Billing & Funding Guidance

Home safety modifications can sometimes be covered by Medicare, Medicaid, VA benefits, long-term care insurance, or state/local grant programs. A knowledgeable contractor should help you navigate funding options, provide proper documentation, and ideally handle billing, reducing financial stress for the senior and their family.





9. Collaborative, Patient-Centered Approach

The best contractors work collaboratively with the senior, their family, and their healthcare team (physicians, physical/occupational therapists, home health aides). The process should feel consultative, never rushed, with clear communication, transparent pricing, and respect for the senior's preferences and dignity.





10. Ongoing Support & Follow-Up

Service Needs change as people age. Choose a contractor that offers ongoing support, equipment maintenance, follow-up assessments, and the ability to scale modifications over time. Smart Medical's combined model of medical equipment supply and home modification means clients have a long-term partner, not just a one-time installer.





Smart Medical, smartmedgroup.com, exemplifies this integrated model by combining clinical-grade patient assessments with a comprehensive product portfolio spanning mobility aids, ADA bathroom remodeling, stair glides, walk-in showers, grab bars, and bariatric solutions, making them a strong candidate for seniors evaluating aging-in-place contractors.