

Your Possible Home

Building Meaningful, Enduring Family Bonds in the Age of AI


www.YourPossibleHome.com

The DIY Decision Flowchart

The original version of this resource walked through five steps in a long, prose-heavy format. That's fine for reading once, but it's not what you actually want in your hand when something has just broken and you're standing in front of it trying to decide what to do. A decision tool needs to work fast.

The version below is built to be glanced at, not studied. Print it, fold it into your home binder or tape it inside a utility closet, and use it the next time something needs a call.

Before you start, name the problem in one sentence.

Write what's happening, not what you're afraid is happening.

The problem: _____

Naming it plainly is half the work. Most home panic is about uncertainty, not the actual issue.

Step 1 — Safety

- Does this involve gas, major electrical work, or anything structural?
- Could a mistake cause fire, flooding, or serious injury?

→ One yes, stop here. Use AI to understand the system well enough to talk to a professional, then call one.

→ Both no, continue.

Step 2 — Visibility and access

- Can you clearly see the problem?
- Can you reach the part without demolition or specialty tools?

→ Either no, ask AI whether getting access is itself a job for a professional.

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→ Both yes, continue.

Step 3 — Complexity

Is this a single-system issue — one pipe, one wire, one part?

Do the steps run in sequence rather than branching?

→ Either no, the project may still be doable, but break it into smaller stages with AI before you start.

→ Both yes, continue.

Step 4 — Tool reality

Do you already own the required tools?

Are any tools you'd need to buy reasonably priced and reusable?

→ Either no, run a quick comparison against the cost of hiring help.

→ Both yes, continue.

Step 5 — Learning value

Could this be a teachable moment for one of your kids?

Would learning this skill reduce future dependence on outside help?

→ Yes, proceed with AI as your step-by-step guide.

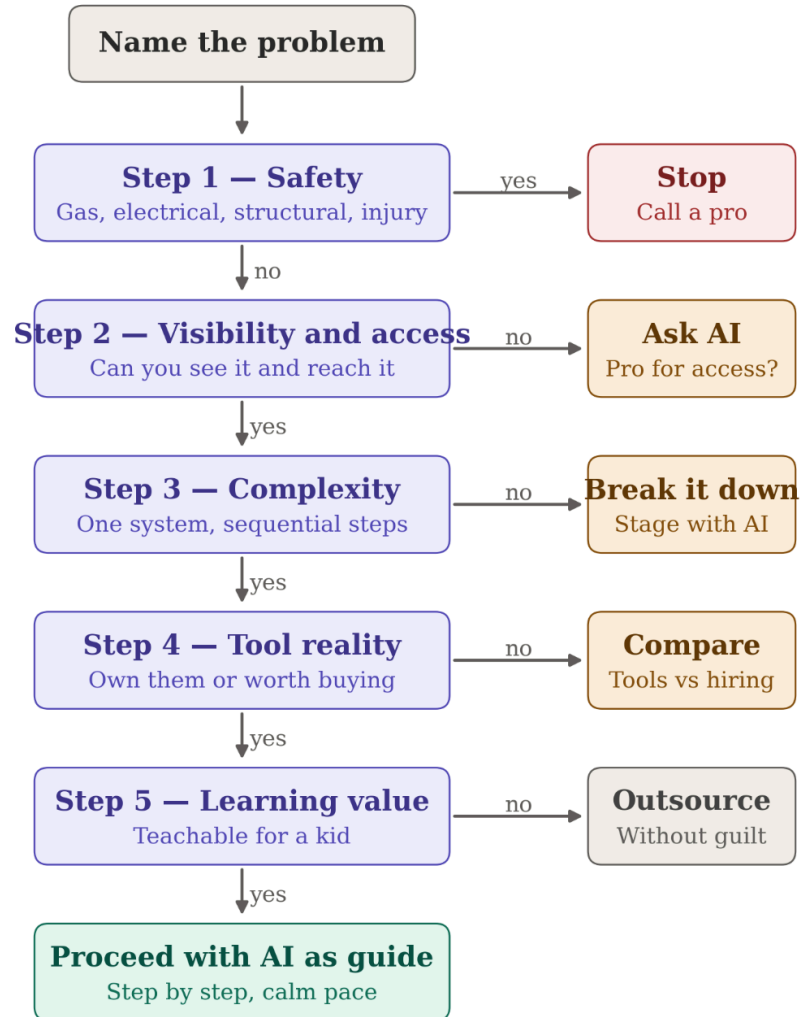
→ No, do the project if it's convenient and outsource it without guilt if it isn't.

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Reading the chart

The center column is the path forward — each step's two questions must both answer yes to keep moving down.

Right-side branches are the off-ramps. They aren't failure — they're the honest answer for that project at this moment.

Step 1 is the only true stop. Steps 2 through 4 send you to AI for help deciding, not away from the project entirely.

Calling someone is not failure. The only failure is pushing past a safety line because you didn't want to admit the project was bigger than you thought.