

Six Month Downsizing Plan



Six Months Out

- Walk through your whole house noting items that you know you don't need and can easily give up.
- List the rooms/areas in your current home that you don't plan to have in your new space.
- Make a first pass at your clothing and shoes, eliminating anything you haven't worn in 2 years.
- Assess your collections, prized possessions, and memorabilia. Determine how much space you want to dedicate to them in your new home.
- Identify items of value; consult with a collectibles advisor, auction house, or estate liquidator.
- Designate items to give to friends and family members. Set a plan for removing anything you are storing for other people.

Five Months Out

- Hire an experienced Realtor® who understands the downsizing process.
- Determine repairs and/or upgrades that will be necessary to sell the property.
- Work with your Realtor® to get estimates from reputable downsizing professionals in your area.

- Gather important documents and store them safely. Shred/Recycle as much paper as possible.
- Stop subscriptions; purge magazines, reduce book collections to what will go with you.
- Eliminate outdated media for content that is now available electronically.
- Set photos aside for digitizing or sorting at a later date.

4 Months Out

- Start sorting through small storage spaces: closets, bathrooms, bedside tables and junk drawers.
- Collect all cleaning products in one place; try to use them up without buying more.
- Go back through your off-season clothing and remove items not worn in the last season.
- Cull hobby supplies; identify and remove abandoned projects and materials.
- Pare down holiday decorations to what you will use in your next space.

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At the end of the third month, assess your progress on your decluttering efforts. If you are having trouble, consider hiring a professional organizer or move manager to pitch in.

Three Months Out

- Schedule the necessary repairs or upgrades to your property.
- Hire an experienced Move Manager to make a detailed plan for your move.
- Measure your furniture and create a floor plan for your next home.
- Complete sales or re-homing of valuable items not going with you.
- Address remaining items in the home including the attic, garage, basement, shed, etc. Schedule auction and junk removal for unneeded household items.
- Purge the pantry of outdated or unwanted food.
- Declutter your kitchen and reduce tools, appliances, cookware, and entertaining items.
- Go back through closets, office, hobby areas looking for things you won't need.

Two Months Out

- Select a trustworthy and dependable Mover; schedule your move.
- Complete any landscaping or delayed maintenance projects.
- Separate out your best clothing, keep only what fits and flatters.
- Go back through closets, office, hobby areas looking for things you won't need.
- Finish all donation drop offs or pickups.
- Complete estate sale or auction if necessary. Finish all donation drop offs or pickups.

One Month Out

- Revisit your list of repairs and upgrades; make the final list of projects still needing attention.
- Coordinate all schedules and tasks with your Move Manager.
- Continue to reduce the food in your kitchen, pantry and freezer.
- Prepare for the next steps: Selling Your Home or Packing and Moving.