

Two-Year Downsizing Plan

The First Year



First Quarter: Books, Paper and Media

- Gather important documents and store safely.
- Consider buying a scanner to scan mementos and paper records.
- Reduce your collection of books to a bare minimum.
- Purge outdated magazines and stop subscriptions.
- Eliminate all DVDs and CDs for content now available electronically.
- Set photos aside for digitizing or sorting at a later date.

Second Quarter: Small Storage Spaces

- Eliminate unneeded linens, towels and blankets and pillows.
- Purge bathrooms of unneeded makeup and toiletries.
- Empty bedside tables, keeping only the essentials.
- Evaluate all items in medicine cabinets: remove outdated medicines and supplies.
- Empty junk drawers; sort contents and discard unneeded items.
- Collect all cleaning products in one place; try to use them up without buying more.

Mid Year

- Sort through seasonal clothing; remove all items not worn in the past season.

Third Quarter: Attic, Basement and Hobby Areas

These are the most difficult areas; enlist a professional if necessary.

- Dispose of all unused or broken housewares, appliances, luggage, sporting gear etc.
- Address any "inherited" items you've been keeping in storage.
- Set a deadline for adult children to remove their belongings from the home.
- Pare down holiday decorations by at least half.
- Cull hobby supplies; identify and remove abandoned projects and materials.

Fourth Quarter: Kitchen and Pantry

- Identify duplicates of kitchen tools; keep only your favorites.
- Evaluate your future needs for service ware and entertaining items.
- Reduce inventory of storage containers.
- Eliminate majority of vases, coffee mugs, silver plated items and china.
- Purge the pantry of outdated or unwanted food.

End of Year

- Sort through seasonal clothing; remove all items not worn in the past season.

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The Second Year



First Quarter: Repairs and Upgrades

- Consult a Home Transition Pros-approved Realtor to determine a strategy for selling your property.
- Identify necessary repairs on the plumbing, electrical or HVAC systems in your property.
- Assess the roof, chimney, and foundation for possible deficiencies.
- Address any issues with grade or landscaping that will affect the value of your property.
- Determine what interior upgrades will be necessary to prepare your property for market.

Second Quarter: Garage, Shed, or Outdoor Areas

- Remove unused camping, sports, or recreational equipment.
- Eliminate unused exercise or weight equipment.
- Prioritize necessary tools; pack a toolbox for future use and remove the rest.
- Identify necessary garden tools. If possible, switch to a landscaping service and reduce tools to a bare minimum.
- Gather all household chemicals, including paint and lawn products. Plan for safe disposal of any items you won't need.

Mid Year

- Sort through ALL clothing, shoes and outerwear; try on all items you plan to take to your new space and eliminate anything that does not flatter or fit.

Third Quarter: Furniture and Collections

- Eliminate rooms in your current home that you don't plan have in your new space.
- Get appraisals for prized possessions you don't plan to take to your next home.
- Assess collections and determine space you can dedicate to them in your new home.
- Consult with auction house to sell items of value; arrange for donation for the rest.
- Designate items to give to friends and family members.

Fourth Quarter: Final Preparations

- Focus on determining and making arrangements for your next home.
- Measure your furniture and create a floor plan for your next home.
- Work with your Realtor to prepare and sell your property.
- Work with a moving and storage professional to pack your belongings and complete your move.
- Pack a moving box of all the essentials you'll need for your transition.

End of Year

- Complete your move and put your feet up in your new home!