

Top 10

# Ways to **START** Downsizing



## **NO. 10: START ASAP**

It's never too early to begin the downsizing process. When you are considering a move, we recommend starting at least 6 months in advance, when possible. Dedicate 1 hour a day to sorting and downsizing until your move. This will help with decision-fatigue. Start with small projects such as drawers and linen closets.

## **NO. 9: DETERMINE % OF DOWNSIZE**

Consider the percentage you are downsizing. If you are moving from a 3000 sq ft home to a 1500 sq ft apartment, then your floor space will be 50% but with the added storage of built-ins, closets, drawers, and unfinished spaces, this can add another 20% onto your downsizing goal, and will affect what you choose to omit.

## **NO. 8: SPACE PLANNING IS INVALUABLE**

A roadmap and understanding of your new space is essential. Building a to-scale floor plan is one of the best investments you can make in this process. From determining the scale of furniture to how it can best be utilized in the new space, a professional floor plan is key.

## **NO. 7: CONSIDER YOUR NEW LIFESTYLE**


Not only will you want to consider if certain belongings will fit into your new space, but you will want to ask yourself if it fits into your new lifestyle. Will you be engaging in new activities or maintain existing hobbies? What opportunities will downsizing create? Will your new lifestyle align with your current belongings?

## **NO. 6: GROUP LIKE-ITEMS TOGETHER**

When sorting areas of your home, group all like-items together before making decisions on what to keep or omit. For example, 29+ vases may be in a home - some in the kitchen, pantry, utility room, dining room, and/or basement storage. Better decisions are made when you can see all items collectively first.




## NO. 5 COLOR-CODE WHEN SORTING




When sorting, consider the following categories: KEEP, PUT ASIDE FOR FAMILY, TRASH/JUNK, POTENTIAL DONATE, or POTENTIAL SALE. As you sort through areas of the home, place different colored painters tape on these items (or on entire area) as you go. This will help later when packing or distributing items.

## NO. 3: OMIT THE DUPLICATES




Through the years, we all accumulate duplicate appliances, tools, kitchenware, and office goods. When you move, those duplicates will take up quite a bit of space. Now is the perfect time to consider gifting, donating, or selling these items.

## NO. 4: ARCHIVE THE MEMORIES




On average, most households have between 8-16 bins of photographs and memorabilia. When downsizing to a smaller space, this becomes very challenging. Find solutions for archiving these memories through a family archivist, professional digitizing and/or memorializing specific items that you want to display.

## NO. 2: DECLUTTER BEFORE ORGANIZING



Focus on decluttering and downsizing BEFORE considering organizational products, and/or space utilization. Effective organization can be done once the downsizing and move is completed.

## NO. 1: OUTSOURCE AND ASK FOR HELP



One of the most important things we have learned about downsizing is the process goes so much more smoothly when there is someone to help who has no emotional attachment to the items. It is difficult to downsize and declutter on your own. Larger and more labor intensive projects such as storage units, basements, attics, kitchens, and closets are excellent areas to outsource.

**NEED HELP? CALL 919-636-7800 FOR A COMPLIMENTARY IN-HOME ESTIMATE!**