

Home Downsizing Checklist

Find Destination

Before you do anything else, take time to explore your moving options. Will you move in to a smaller home? A condo? A retirement community? In with your children? It's good to have a goal in mind before you begin the downsizing process.

Declutter & Organize

This is probably the hardest part of downsizing so take your time and be kind with yourself. It can be beneficial to hire a professional or bring in a friend for a second opinion when you get stuck. It is likely easiest to start with the large appliances and furniture. Once you know where you are moving to next, you will know what amenities to expect out of your new home and therefore will know what appliances and furniture you will need to bring with you.

Remove Unwanted Items

There are many ways to be rid of the items you don't want to take with you. If you'd like to make money off those items, consider having an estate sale or listing each item for sale on eBay, Craigslist or Facebook Marketplace. If you don't care about profits you can deliver items to local charities or second hand stores. Or join your local Buy Nothing Group on Facebook and list the items for free online. Most Buy Nothing Group members are willing to pick items up from your home so you don't have to worry about loading or driving to dispense your things.

Repair & Improve Your Home

Once you've consolidated your belongings, it's time to think about selling your home. Enlisting a senior real estate specialist during this step can make a world of difference as they can walk through your home, point out areas in need of repair, and even schedule contractors to bring your house up to listing standards. Make sure your home is in a good living condition and consider painting over any bold household colors.

List & Sell Your Home

Here again it would be valuable to have a real estate agent that specializes in senior moves, as they can photograph, list, market and negotiate your home sale on your behalf. If you will be transferring from your home to a retirement community, consider using this time to coordinate with their team about your arrival.

Pack & Move

Once you have accepted an offer and determined a closing date on your house, it's time to start looking in to moving companies. Some companies will merely move your packed boxes, while other companies will pack your belongings for you, so consider what services you'd like to receive when determining which moving company is right for you.

