

## 4 Tips to Downsize Clutter in Your Home Before a Move

Moving to a new home can be an exciting adventure, but the process of packing up and relocating can also be quite daunting, especially if you've accumulated a lot of stuff over the years. Downsizing clutter before a move not only lightens your load but also makes settling into your new space much more manageable!

Here are four essential tips to help you declutter effectively before your move:

### 1. Start Early and Create a Plan:

- Begin the downsizing process well in advance of your move date. Give yourself at least a few months to sort through your belongings. Start by creating a plan that outlines what needs to be done, room by room. Setting specific goals and deadlines will help you stay on track.

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### 2. Sort and Categorize:

- Take a systematic approach to decluttering by sorting your items into categories such as keep, donate, sell, and discard. Be ruthless in your decision-making process. If you haven't used an item in the past year or it no longer serves a purpose, consider letting it go. Use the following questions to help you decide:
  - a. Have I used this in the last year?
  - b. Does it hold sentimental value?
  - c. Can I easily replace it if needed?

### 3. Donate, Sell, or Recycle:

- Once you've categorized your items, take action. Donating gently used items to local charities or thrift stores can benefit those in need and reduce your moving load. Selling items online through platforms like eBay, Craigslist, or Facebook Marketplace is a great way to make some extra cash. Additionally, recycling or properly disposing of items that can't be donated or sold is an eco-friendly choice.

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- 4. Maximize Space-Efficient Storage:
- As you declutter, consider investing in space-efficient storage solutions for the items you plan to keep. Use storage bins, organizers, and shelves to make the most of your available space. This will not only help you stay organized in your new home but also prevent clutter from accumulating again.

**Bonus Tip: Digitize Paperwork and Photos:**

In today's digital age, there's no need to lug around boxes of old paperwork and photo albums. Invest in a high-quality scanner and digitize important documents, photos, and sentimental items. Store them securely on external hard drives or in the cloud to free up physical space.

In conclusion, downsizing clutter before a move is a crucial step to ensure a smooth transition to your new home. By starting early, categorizing your belongings, and making conscious decisions about what to keep, sell, donate, or discard, you'll not only reduce the physical and mental burden of moving but also create a fresh, clutter-free space in your new home. Happy decluttering and happy moving! We at Igo-Organize would love the opportunity to work with you on your downsizing journey - please reach out! [Gretchen@Igo-Organize.com](mailto:Gretchen@Igo-Organize.com)