

When You're Moving

What to do with what's not going with you

When moving, it's likely that not all of your possessions will go to your new home. This raises the question: what to do with what's not moving? Your options include:

Give to family or friends. Relatives and friends may find unwanted possessions useful, valuable or sentimental. Including people close to you can be a great first step in determining what should happen with some items that won't be moved.

Garage sales and estate sales. Garage sales are ideal for offloading cheaper items, while estate sales, often managed by professionals, are better for valuable possessions.

Charitable donations. Charities like local churches, the Red Cross and Goodwill often accept donations, though policies vary. Check ahead for drop-off requirements or potential removal fees.

"Junk" removal services. Quick and efficient, they will take almost anything you don't want. Pricing is based on the volume of material (though some services price by item) and fees are often added for items such as paint or tires.

Self-storage. Storing items can ensure future access or delay tough decisions about letting go. However, self-storage can become costly, with fees often exceeding the value of stored items and rates subject to unexpected hikes.



Disposing of hazardous waste

You should never pour household hazardous waste (HHW) down drains or on the ground—this can harm people, animals and the environment. Instead, look into proper disposal options, such as:

Collection programs. Check with your local waste management district or environmental health agency to learn about these programs or visit Earth911.com.

Retail take-back programs. Some retailers accept certain types of HHW for recycling, such as used oil and antifreeze.

Mail-in disposal services. Some companies offer mail-in kits for specific HHW items, like expired medication or mercury thermometers.

Hazardous waste disposal facilities.

By searching the internet for "hazardous waste disposal near me," you may find nearby organizations and services to help you properly dispose of HHW.

10 Ways to Make Downsizing A Bit Easier



If you're considering moving, downsizing and decluttering can offer a simpler, more secure, lower-stress lifestyle. Downsizing can also present you with a lot to think about. Here are some tips that might make the process a bit less daunting:

1. Start early

Successful downsizing takes more time than you may realize; starting the process at least two to three months in advance can be a real benefit.

2. Make a plan

Planning out the steps (with as much detail as possible) will make the process more manageable and help lessen anxiety.

3. Set a timeline

The plan should include a timeline to ensure tasks are completed in order as the move approaches. The distance of the move may affect the timeframe.

4. Use the new floor plan

A floor plan of your new home—even if rough—can help determine what might go where and which pieces fit, and which don't.

5. Start with "less"

For a simple guide to think about which might not go to your future home, think "less"—less used, less valuable, less emotional.

6. Discard duplicates

We all accumulate things. When downsizing, ask whether duplicates can be discarded. Do you need five different types of cooking whisks?

7. Use a "one-year" rule

If something hasn't been used or viewed within the past year, it may be a candidate for being left out of the move.

8. Create "yes" or "no" groups

Using sticky notes to label items as "yes" or "no" will help you remember which items you need to take with you.

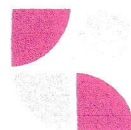
9. Donate or discard

Once items have been divided into "yes" or "no" groups, think about which would be well-appreciated donations and which need to be disposed of in other ways.

10. Get help from your friends or family

Friends or family can offer both helping hands and a helpful voice when it comes to downsizing. Involving them early on can make the process easier.

While downsizing can present some challenges, the benefits can pay off over the years. Your local SRES® Real Estate Professional can be a great resource to help your planning.



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Simple Changes to Make Aging in Place Easier

Many seniors want to age in place, but home modifications can be costly, often reaching tens of thousands of dollars. Fortunately, simple, affordable changes can help accommodate their needs.



Bathroom

- Use a shower chair or bench for easier bathing
- Switch to a handheld showerhead for easy rinsing while seated
- Replace glass enclosures with shatterproof materials for safety
- Install slip-resistant strips on the shower floor instead of mats
- Lever-style faucets are easier for older hands to turn

Bedroom

- An adjustable bed can add comfort and ease of access
- Motion-sensor night lights can benefit nocturnal risers

Kitchen

- Rearrange major appliances for easier access
- Choose refrigerators with wheelchair-accessible handles
- Use slide-out drawers for easier cabinet access

Furniture

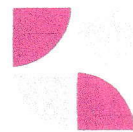
- Chairs with armrests make it easier to stand and sit
- A lift chair with an electronic control can make sitting and standing safer
- Organize electrical cords to prevent tripping hazards

Lighting

- Install easy-access light switches
- Use lighting to create safe navigation in all areas
- Voice-activated smart lighting can be perfect for seniors

Flooring/rugs

- Use non-shag carpeting over hard floors to reduce fall risk
- Wheelchairs or walkers are easier to use with short-pile carpet
- Slip-resistant backing can keep rugs in place and reduce tripping hazards



An SRES® has the training, skills and experience to help you with the right move for you in your golden years.