

DESIGNING MOVES



SENIOR MOVE MANAGERS

Downsizing Tips from **Designing Moves® L.L.C.**

Senior Move Managers

Downsizing Dilemmas

Common Pitfalls when Downsizing your Home

- Waiting too long to deal with your stuff
- Saving the wrong stuff – toss broken things
- Not telling family the stories/meaning of certain items
- Saving it because your parents saved it
- Boxing up items for tag sale, auctioneer or buyers to look at
- Storing things too long

Consequences

- Expenses are rising to clean out a home – hazardous waste, mold, mouse or insect infested items must be thrown away. It costs more and more to get trash picked up.
- Family will deal with it by throwing it in a dumpster and not looking to see if there is anything of value.
- Missing getting some money for items while you can sell them.
- Spending more money storing things than they are worth.
- Owning nice things that you've saved for "good" and have little value now.

Items to consider saving if you are moving

- Arm chair
- Ottoman that can double as a coffee table
- Easy to use storage items – plastic cart with drawers, shelf dividers, underbed storage, clear plastic bins.
- Take part of your dish set (4-6 place settings max) and part of your flatware.
- Smaller pots and pans.

What to let go of as soon as possible

- Clothes you don't wear – we wear 20 % of what is in our closet, people move too many clothes!
- Paper – organize your important papers, shred personal papers you don't need, clean out old receipts, taxes, cancelled checks.
- Photos – divide up with family, digitize them, and get rid of ones that you don't want – save a couple vacation pictures (no one wants old vacation pictures). Historical photos may have some value but sort them out.
- Damaged Items – broken or moldy items, things that need mending or that you can't get fixed, parts to items you used to own.
- Hazardous waste – make regular visits to the landfill with these items, get them out of the house.
- Recycling – keep up with recycling, don't let it pile up – magazines, plastic, pie tins, etc.

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