

10 steps to Simplifying Your Move



Now that you've decided to move

from your home to a smaller apartment in a senior community, here are ten steps to simplify the moving process:

1. A few of your favorite things

Be realistic about what you can bring with you. Bring the things that hold the most memories such as photographs and personal treasures.

2. A place for everything

You will have less space, so think very carefully about where your possessions will go. Start with the floor plan. Build your furniture around your favorite place to sit. The biggest mistake is to bring too much.

3. Sorting

Start sorting early, but limit it to a couple of hours a day. Create three piles: things to keep; things for family and friends; and the third for removal.

4. Allow yourself time to say goodbye

Take the time to go through your lifetime possessions. Share or reminisce about the memories with a family member or friend. It is the hardest part of downsizing, but the most important part.

5. Things at the back of the closet

If you haven't worn or used items for a long time, it's probably a good time to let them go.

6. What to do with what's left

Charities, your local place of worship and antique dealers will often take things. Finally, there are firms that will haul the rest away at a cost.

7. Book your moving date

Get quotes and references from several movers. Book your move for the morning and mid-week when it is less hectic.

8. Keep track of what you pack

As you're packing, keep an inventory of what goes into each box and label where it's going.

9. Moving day

Set aside valuables, medications and important papers. Transport these yourself.

10. Enjoy your new home

By planning ahead, you can have a successful move and start enjoying your new home from the day you move in. ■

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