



Decluttering



Are you a new empty-nester or someone who is looking to move into a smaller home or apartment? “Overwhelming” may not even begin to describe the feeling you have as you look at your current living situation and try to downsize. In fact, people over the age of 70 may be so overwhelmed that they will not throw out possessions for a while, with close to 33% of them not throwing out any possessions in the past year¹. While downsizing can be a daunting task, it is a necessary one that brings with it a ton of benefits.

According to the Zillow Group Housing Trends Report, close to half of home sellers in the Baby Boomers group downsized in 2017². That’s a lot of space-reduction!

One of the key aspects of downsizing is to reduce the amount of clutter in your dwelling. This will make moving into a smaller home or apartment much easier (and less expensive) due to decreased items that need to be moved.

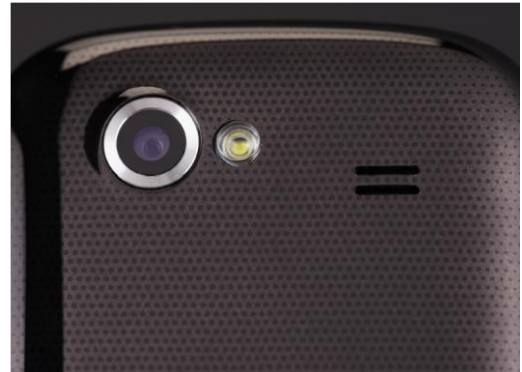
To get started, empty-nesters or the older populations should keep in mind the following tips:

- Place items into three piles:
 - Definitely keep
 - Definitely get rid of
 - I’m not sure

When you are done, throw out or donate the last two categories. Your future self will thank you!



- Build in structure
 - By setting aside time or scheduling a clutter pickup, you will lower your risk of putting off the project or making excuses
- Create a date box
 - Put objects that you have questions about into a box with a future date on it. No need to label the box with the contents inside. If you find that you do not use the contents by the date in the box, throw it out or donate it. No questions asked!
 - Throw it out if it doesn't work
 - There are usually appliances in one's home that don't work. If you want to fix it, then fix it. If you don't plan on fixing it, throw it out
- Take a photo
 - Often, the objects in the "maybe" pile have a sentimental value attached to them. Instead of keeping the pile, take pictures of the items and then give them away or throw them out.³



We hope these tips provide you with at least some guidance when deciding to declutter in preparation for downsizing your home.

When downsizing in the Chicagoland and Phoenix/Scottsdale areas, think Lee Ernst. With genuine care and a meaningful relationship, Lee is here to help you land the real estate deal of a lifetime.



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Sources

- 1- <https://www.webmd.com/mental-health/mental-health-benefits-of-decluttering>
- 2- <https://www.zillow.com/report/2017/>
- 3- <https://www.dummies.com/home-garden/how-to-get-rid-of-clutter/>