



Certified Senior Move Management
Personal Property Liquidations

11 Essential Tips You Must Know to Avoid the Unseen Pitfalls of Downsizing and Moving

{Tip #11 Could Really Save The Day!}

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11 Essential Tips You Must Know!

1. START EARLY – END HAPPY!

It's never too early to begin the downsizing process. Begin by focusing on typical catch-all areas such as the attic, basement, garage, closets, or file cabinets.

2. SHOW YOUR GENEROSITY

Since you won't want to take everything you own to your new home, it's the perfect time to make arrangements to gift some of your treasures to special people in your life including family, helpful neighbors, friends, favorite organizations, or a church/synagogue.

3. LOSE THE STUFF – SAVE YOUR MEMORIES

You may have boxes of old photos from every holiday, vacation and birthday party attended. What do you do with them? Consider preserving family photos and stories by copying them onto CDs, or try your hand at scrap booking. There are professional services that will take all your photos, slides, and videos and do it for you.

4. NEW LOOKS FOR BOOKS

If you own a large quantity of books, it's important to downsize your collection. Books take up lots of space and are heavy to move. Local libraries or senior centers welcome donations, or consider selling to used book stores. Check with a book dealer for older books with potential value.

5. USE IT UP – DON'T MOVE IT OUT

Take an inventory of your canned goods, frozen foods, and paper products. Use as many of these products as you can before moving, or consider donating them to a local food pantry.

6. RECYCLE THE TOXINS

Certain household and yard care products, paints and automotive products are considered hazardous and must be disposed of properly. If your residence is within Monroe County, these items can be taken to the Monroe County Household Hazardous Waste site. You must make an appointment to drop these items off. MCHHW can be contacted at: 585-760-7600; option #3.

7. STAY CONNECTED

Create a list of people, places, and utilities/services that need to be notified of your upcoming change in address.

8. FLOOR PLAN AHEAD

With a **scale floor plan** of your new place, cut out furniture templates to determine pieces of furniture will fit in your new home, and the best location for each item. This will make it easier for you to choose the items you'll be happiest with.

9. PACK A "READY BAG" FOR MOVE-IN DAY

Put together a *Ready Bag* for move day. Include items for: **personal needs**, such as medications, eyeglasses, toiletries, change of clothes, important papers; **kitchen needs**, such as snacks, drinks, folding chair, disposable cups/plates; **basic tools**, such as a hammer, screwdriver, flashlight, tape; and **cleaning supplies**, such as a sponge, roll of paper towels, soap. And remember to set aside payment for the mover. Be sure you know which form of payment they prefer.

10. ASK FOR HELP!

It's okay to ask for assistance. Moving is not easy and you shouldn't do it all yourself. But don't wait until the last minute to ask for help. Some of these downsizing steps take time to accomplish. Remember – your goal is to move into your new home happy, healthy, and ready to enjoy your new lifestyle!

11. EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED!

Even when you plan very well, unforeseen events are liable to come up. Friends you were counting on may not show or you could run out of packing materials. There's a million unforeseen things that could put a crimp in your move experience and cause unnecessary stress and delays. Do what the experts at Grandma's Helpers Senior Move Management do with our extensive resources: *Always have a backup plan!*

Visit www.grandmashelpers.com for more information.