



Once you have found a retirement community you love, you have to sort through belongings, pack them up and orchestrate a move. Maybe you have a house to sell too? A little organization and preparation can make the process much more manageable. Use the resources below to assist you through your transition.

Selling Your Home

While you can sell your home on your own, real estate transactions can be complicated. Since a home can be a sizable asset, utilizing a real estate agent may save you time and money. There are Senior Real Estate Specialists who are specially trained to meet the unique real estate needs of seniors. Talk with at least three potential agents. You should feel as though they understand your wants and needs.

Here are some questions to ask a potential realtor:

- How long have you been in this profession?
- How many houses have you sold?
- How many did they sell last year?
- What is your commission?
- How do you intend to market my home?
- What sets you apart from other agents?
- Can you provide references of clients you have worked with in the past year?

Planning Your Move

Start by setting a time table. Add moving-related tasks to your daily calendar. Spread them out, as to not feel overwhelmed.

If possible, enlist the help of a professional. There are senior move managers who specialize in assisting older adults and their families with the emotional and physical aspects of relocation. You can find a senior move manager in your area through the National Association of Senior Move Managers (<http://www.nasmm.org/>). Use the list below to answer some common questions and prioritize tasks.



1. Start Sorting Now

Pick one area to start with: the bedroom closet; the kitchen cabinets; your files. An hour or two a day is enough time to spend. The important thing is to begin.

2. What Do I Do With My Stuff?

Now's the time to give the books to the library; to find out if your daughter wants Grandma's china; to see if the consignment shop will take the extra chairs. Try antique dealers, consignment shops, yard sales, non-profits, etc. Each resource has its own guidelines.

Begin using up canned goods and items in your freezer. If you have too many items, consider donating them to the local food pantry.

3. Schedule Your Move

Decide how you want to make the move. Will family be moving your items? Will you hire movers?

If you plan to hire movers, you will ideally want to do so at least eight weeks in advance. Be sure to check with a few moving companies before settling on one. Check their reputation with the Better Business Bureau and/or the American Moving and Storage Association.

3. Make a Floor Plan

Ask your community representative for a floor plan of your new home. This will allow you to visualize where your furniture will fit and prevent you from taking too many pieces with you.

4. Successful Packing

Try to pack a bit each day. Label each box with what's inside and where it goes. Put a big bright sticker on the boxes that contain essentials.



5. Notify Everyone

Use our change of address checklist below to make sure you notify everyone of your new address.

Contact your utility and service companies to arrange to have your services disconnected soon after you move. Nothing's worse than the power being cut at 8:00 when the movers are arriving at 9:00.

6. Set Aside Your "Day of the Move" Box

Set aside items that you will need the day of the move: an overnight bag with a change of clothes and personal items (toiletries, medications); important papers; bedding; basic tools (screw driver, hammer, flashlight); cleaning supplies (sponges, paper towels, soap). Also include whatever form of payment the moving company requests; most will not accept a personal check.

7. It's Moving Day

Moving can be a stressful time for everyone. You are saying goodbye to part of your life; and hello to the future. Expect to feel a little sadness and nervousness, but excitement, too! Your Park View associates will be happy to welcome you, so be sure to let us know how we can help.



TIPS FOR DOWNSIZING

ASK YOURSELF SOME QUESTIONS

- Will this fit in my new space?
- Is it beautiful, useful, important or loved? Or am I just keeping it out of habit?
- Will it still be useful or functional in my new home?
- Can this item or piece of furniture save space by serving two functions?
- Is it easy to care for, or does it require special attention?
- Is it comfortable for my physical condition or stage of life?

MAKING IT EASIER TO LET GO

- Lay out items that need to go and invite loved ones to pick what they want
- When giving treasured keepsakes to family and friends, share with them the story behind the piece
- Donate serviceable items to charities that help the less fortunate
- Have an estate sale and use the proceeds to purchase pieces for your new home or donate profits to your favorite charity

STEP-BY-STEP

- Start with the rooms in your house you aren't using
- Make decisions about big pieces of furniture before tackling smaller items
- Give yourself plenty of time to make good decisions
- Take lots of breaks and ask friends and family to help
- Remember the goal is to simplify
- Have packing supplies, boxes and bags on hand to pack as you make decisions
- Schedule the donation truck to come over as soon as you are done

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS CHECKLIST

- Utilities & Services
- Electric
- Gas
- Water
- Garbage
- Telephone / Mobile
- Cable
- Internet
- Fuel
- Water Delivery / Water Treatment
- Pool Services
- Lawn / Garden Services
- Housecleaning Services
- Physicians / Veterinarian
- Attorney
- Financial & Personal Accounts
- Banks
- Loan Institutions
- Major Credit Card Companies
- Department Store Credit Cards
- Insurance Agencies (Health, Home/life and Auto)
- Charge Accounts
- Pension Plans
- Air Miles Rewards Program
- Accountant / Tax Consultant
- Professional Memberships / Licensing Boards
- Government & Public Offices
- Post Office
- Veteran Affairs
- Income Tax / IRS
- Family Support
- Social Security
- Pension Benefits
- Unemployment Insurance
- Vehicle Registration
- Driving License
- Subscriptions
- Newspapers
- Magazines
- Mail Order Houses
- Book and Music Clubs