

Top 10 List of Things to do When you are Planning a Move

10 Start Early!
 It's never too early to begin the downsizing process. Begin by focusing on typical problem areas such as the attic, garage, closets, file cabinets.

9 Get Generous
 Since you can't take everything you own to your new home, now is the time to make arrangements to "gift" some of your treasures to special people in your life including, and especially family, helpful neighbors, friends, favorite organizations, or a church/synagogue.

8 Save Your Memories
 You may have boxes of old photos from every holiday, vacation and birthday party attended. What do you do with them? Your family photos and stories are precious to you and would make a wonderful gift to a family member or loved one. You can copy your special photos on to CDs, or try your hand at scrap-booking. There are many programs available via the internet to tell stories through picture and video. Ask the **Generations** team for some ideas and help with this type of project.

7 New Looks for Books
 If you own large quantities of books, you need to spend time downsizing your collections. Books occupy lots of space and are heavy to move. Consider donations to libraries or senior centers, or sales to used bookstores. Call on a book dealer for older books with potential value.

6 Use It – Don't Move It!
 Take an inventory of your canned goods, frozen foods, and paper products. Plan to use as many of these products as you can before moving. If you simply have too many of these items, think about passing them on to a local food pantry. The **Generations** team participates in the Move For Hunger Initiative sponsored by the National Association of Sr. Move Managers. Ask the team about this.

5 Recycle the Toxins
 Take time to put together a box or two of household, yard, and automotive cleaning products, as well as paint, that are considered hazardous. Visit Earth911.org for more information on hazardous collection in your area. Your **Generations** team can also help dispose of these items.

4 Don't Lose Touch
 Create a list of people, places, and utilities/services that need to be notified of your upcoming change in address.

3 Space Plan Ahead
 A floor plan will help you determine the pieces of furniture that will fit in your new home, and the best location of each. Knowing which pieces will fit in your new space will help you in your right-sizing process. **Generations** can provide you with a customized floor plan of your new residence.

2 Pack a Survival Bag
 Put together a survival bag for move day. It might include personal needs (medications, eyeglasses, toiletries, change of clothes, important papers, etc.); kitchen needs (snacks, drinks, folding chair, disposable cups/plates); basic tools (hammer, screwdriver, flashlight, tape, etc.); cleaning supplies (sponge, roll of paper towels, soap, etc.); and payment for mover – be sure you know which form of payment they accept.

1 Ask For Help
 Don't be too proud or independent-minded to ask for help. 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 require months to accomplish. Your best option is to call on the team at **Generations Senior Moving and Transition Services!** Let our team take the chaos, time and stress out of the moving process so that you can focus your time, attention and energies on helping you loved adjust to their new home.