

Downsizing Timeline

Six months before...

Buy packing supplies.

Continue to consign/sell items.

Start donating unnecessary items.

Start packing boxes with anything you won't need (holiday decor, keepsakes, seasonal clothes, etc.).

Label every box in the same place (left side, top corner) and include main contents. Use moving stickers on top.

Get estimate from Professional Organizer or Senior Move Manager.

One month before...

Start packing up each room in earnest and leave only essentials.

Switch to "moving mode." Get used to the sight of moving boxes and living with less.

One year away...

Start deciding what to keep and what to give away or sell.

Take photos of items you would like to pass on to someone else.

Have conversations with family members about what they would like.

Go through keepsakes and photos.

Declutter room-by-room and donate/consign/sell -- if you need help or accountability, ask for help (from a friend or professional organizer)

Three months out...

Find moving company and get estimates.

Decide what you will pack and what they will do.

Decide and book date with movers.



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The week of the move...

Set aside anything you'll be moving yourself (jewelry, plants, open containers like cleaning supplies & alcohol, important documents, safe, firearms).

Refill prescriptions.

If you have pets, have a plan for them on moving day.

Pack a suitcase with clothes and toiletries for a few days.

Put aside an "unpack first" box, with:

- sheets
- remote controls
- coffee maker, coffee, filters, sugar, breakfast items, etc.
- towels, robe, slippers
- cleaning supplies, paper towels, toilet paper

Purchase drinks/snacks for movers and schedule lunch.

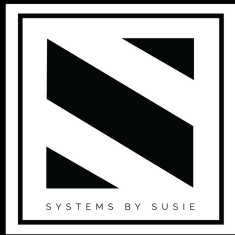
Get cash to tip the movers.

The week before...

Pack up everything that's left.

Don't underestimate how long it takes for last-minute items.

Ask movers to bring boxes and plan to pack anything you weren't able to (mirrors, mattresses, tv's, lamps, etc.).



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On moving day...

Go over stickers with movers.

Have someone at the old house and new house to help coordinate with the movers.

Put out snacks/drinks/lunch.

Put up signs at new house with the name of the room and corresponding sticker.

Tip movers.

After the move...

Make a plan for recycling packing paper and boxes.

Make the most of your storage space. Add shelves and use all the vertical space.

Continue to declutter as you unpack.

The day before the move...

Load up the car with anything you will move yourself.

EVERYTHING must be in boxes before the movers come.

Empty all trash cans.

Take everything off the walls.

Be completely ready on moving day, because movers move fast!

Getting unpacked...

Start in the priority spaces (like the kitchen, main bedroom, and bathroom).