

elanora realty

Your guide to downsizing



Downsizing

Where do you start?

Downsizing is a big step, physically, mentally and possibly financially. It can help to dispel some of your concerns if you consider the "why" behind your move, as well as asking yourself what your goals are in downsizing your home.

Our homes are indisputably more than bricks and mortar, downsizing your living space can present certain challenges, but at the same time it also presents certain opportunities.

If your kids are all grown up and moved out and you are living alone or with your spouse or significant other, then you've become an Empty-Nester!

Perhaps this a new experience for you or maybe it's been that way for quite a few years. Regardless, it's quite possible that you're starting to get the urge to downsize and simplify your life.

What if you thought about the process as a simple restructuring of your lifestyle. You could be moving to a place that's more modern and easier to maintain and where you can enjoy more amenities and activities. You would be freeing up the capital in your existing house to enable you to do the things you really want to do.



So where do you start?

First Step - Simplify

If you are ready to find a home that will meet your "new" needs we have put together a plan that will make the process less overwhelming, and we're here to walk you through every step of the way.

Most people dread moving, but try look at is as a chance to 'right size,' It feels good to get everything in order. That being said, deciding what to keep and what to get rid of before a move can still be a bit daunting so use our downsizing tips below to help you get through it efficiently.

We also have Downsizing Checklist for Seniors on our website which has inventory pages you can download. Its suitable for anyone that wants to downsize.

Step 2: Schedule time to downsize

Going through your belongings is a significant undertaking. If you plan ahead and take it step by step, the process becomes more manageable.

Work in two to three hour blocks of time, focusing on one room at a time. More than that can be overwhelming and you may lose interest. Begin with the least used areas of the home. It's the quickest way to get rid of the items that you rarely use, giving you instant results.

Downsize the big stuff first and make sure you finish one room at a time. Label items that you want to give away to others or the charity organisations you like. Ask for as much help as you need from family and friends that can assist with the decision making.

Step 3: Consider the size of your new space

Before the move, measure your furniture to find out what will fit in your new place once you have purchased. Moving to a smaller home means there are size restrictions to consider. With every item and piece of furniture you go through, ask yourself, "Do I have space for this in my new home?" Consider where you're moving. If you are a senior moving to a facility that serves meals, you won't need most of your kitchen items. If you are moving into an apartment that has a pool and gym then there's no need for your gym equipment. It's also a good idea to measure doorways and hallways to make sure large items can be moved without damaging doorframes and walls.

Avoid renting a storage shed for extra items. If it can't fit in your new place it'll likely just collect dust in the storage shed and add to your monthly bills. Find ways to create better storage in your smaller space. It may be time to let certain things go and perhaps sell or give them away to those that need them.



Here are some suggestions from a professional organiser who owns a relocation company and can assist you from start to finish.

Keep "maybes" to a minimum. Touch it once, make a decision and move on. Moving items in and out of "maybe" piles is emotionally draining.

Group like things together. It's the only way you'll know that you have multiples of items such as six hammers, three spatulas and eight boxes of staples. Donate what you don't need and keep the best of the rest.

Discard what's expired. This includes pantry items that you've had since 2009 and the items that are long since passed their use-by dates.

Your clothing and possessions should reflect your current life, not the life you used to live or the life you hope to live. This might sound simple enough, but it can be tempting to hold onto items you want without prioritising space for the most important things.





Are you ready to find a home that will meet your "new" needs?

We have put together a plan that will make the process much easier and less stressful. We will jump in where and when you need us to make sure your home search is as seamless as possible.

Here's what you can expect with us:

We conduct a free consultation with you to understand your lifestyle goals and what your current property would sell for in today's market. This first step is very important as it will give you accurate information to help you decide how much buying budget you will have for your new place.

You can then discuss your options with family members and advisors that will outline what the next steps are and what they mean to your finances.

We will explain the selling and buying process, review strategies that will help you reach your goals, and review paperwork.

Based on your needs and goals, we will get to work right away to find your perfect home. Based on your goals, we will get to work right away to find your perfect home.

We will walk you through each step, the team is here to guide and support you at every stage of the process.

Our established methods will help you find your new place and get you comfortably settled into your new home.

With help from professionals who are trained and qualified in this area, downsizing, de-cluttering, and getting things organised becomes much easier.

If you're interested in learning more about downsizing and investigating the possibility of selling your house and moving to a comfortable, more manageable home, please feel free to contact us for advice and a chat about your particular situation.



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