

How to Start the Process of Downsizing

Even though Seasoned Life Transitions would love to help you with your downsizing needs and consign the items you wish to sell, I realize that many may wish to do this work on your own. It is an overwhelming and daunting task as you open that cluttered closet or storage space. Many just want to close the door and promise to tackle it next week! Below is a list of how to get started:

1. In an open workspace, set up four sections: KEEP, SELL, DONATE, and TRASH.
2. Start removing items from the cluttered area. As you remove each item, make a quick decision about which slot to place the item.
3. Continue removing items until the entire space has been cleared.
4. Go to your four sections and review the amount of items in each one. Is there a larger proportion of items still in the KEEP? If there are, you need to review the items in that specific group.
5. Is this item something I have used in the last year? Is it still in fashion? Does it still work? Is it safe? If you said "NO" to any of these questions on an item, select one of the other piles. (If it is not safe, TRASH it.)
6. If any of the items in the KEEP or SELL area may have some reasonable value, consider consigning them to Seasoned Life Transitions. We will do the research, appraise, tell the story of the item (if there is one), photograph, list the item for sale on our consignment website (being developed and should be up this summer), market the item to other collectors, and process any sale transaction (including shipping the item). We do this service for a 30% commission + expenses. If you desire to do the work yourself, take the item to an expert or try to research online in order to determine current market value. You can then try to sell the item on one of many websites (that will also charge a fee), auction it (which will charge a commission), or find your own direct buyer.
7. Once you have made your final decision on what to keep, you need to store or display these items. Collections should be displayed for your and other's enjoyment. Put them in a display cabinet or shelving unit. If you have an

extremely large number of items, put out some of them and after several months, switch them out with other pieces in your collection.

8. The items that need to go back into storage should be put away in an organized fashion. Get some storage bins and label them with the contents. Seasoned Life Transitions can also help with organizing, if you prefer to hire a professional.
9. The items that were in the DONATE pile need to be boxed up and taken to your charity of choice. Sometimes, other friends and family may like some of these items. Ask them to come pick up what they want.
10. Throw the TRASH items into either the dumpster, trash bin, recycle bin, take to the dump, or call a junk removal service to haul away.
11. Other items in the SELL pile that may not have substantial value can be sold in a garage sale or on Craig's List. There are some mobile apps that help advertise items you have to sell to people nearby.
12. Lastly, when you desire to buy that new item, ask yourself if it really adds to your collection, wardrobe, home, etc. Is it perfect? Don't buy something just because it is a bargain. Don't buy something in hopes that you will fit into it or use it someday. Don't buy stuff for other people with the idea to give it to them someday. This is how things accumulate. If you do decide to purchase new items, make sure you have a place for it. That may sometimes mean giving up an older one to make room.