

A photograph of an older couple walking away from the camera in a park. The man is on the left, wearing a white t-shirt and tan pants. The woman is on the right, wearing a light blue long-sleeved shirt and white pants, with her arm around the man's shoulder. They are walking on a grassy path with trees in the background. A semi-transparent grey rectangle is overlaid on the image, containing the text.

3 STEPS TO
TRANSFORMING YOUR
**Downsizing
Experience**



THE HARTSINK
TEAM



A Personalized Downsizing Plan Just For You

Your story is unique, and so is your journey to downsizing, or as we like to say, “rightsizing.” For some people, this can be a stressful and emotional experience, but it can also be an exciting new beginning! Like any successful transition, it all begins with a plan.

This step-by-step checklist will help you start preparing for your exciting—or relaxing—next chapter!



1

ASSESS YOUR SITUATION

Selling your current home, where perhaps you raised a family and hold many memories, raises many questions and mixed emotions. By getting them out of your head and onto paper, you're well on your way to finding clarity. Simply making a list of your concerns, challenges, and necessary decisions will help you stay on track throughout the entire process.

With your budding list of considerations in hand, your real estate agent can guide you through each step and around every unexpected turn along the way.

2

EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED

No matter how meticulous you are in your planning, roadblocks and detours along the way are common. For you, last minute hiccups can seem overwhelming—for your Real Estate Agent, it's business as usual! We will always be here to help you create flexible strategies and keep your downsizing journey running smoothly.



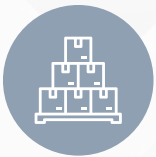
3 DECLUTTER AND ORGANIZE—THE RIGHT WAY!

While organizing and decluttering your home is never easy, the following tips and techniques will help to make it more manageable.



Start Early and Ask For Help

The earlier you start decluttering, the less you will have to do every day, and the less overwhelming it will be. Having more time also helps allow you to process your emotions as you sort through old memories and nostalgia. Feeling rushed can exacerbate your stress and make it more difficult to let go. Asking family and friends to help not only takes some of the pressure off, but can also serve as a time to bond and reconnect over shared memories.



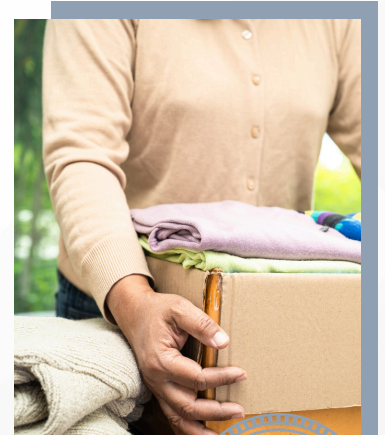
What To Do With All of Your Stuff?

The best place to start is to consider where you are heading, and define what you will need to keep, and what you're likely to have space for. Then, label boxes or bins as "keep," "discard," or "donate". You may even want a separate box for "undecided" if you find yourself having trouble letting go of certain items.



Creating Your Decluttering Plan

Think of what you will need three months before your move, one month before, one week before, one day before, and on arrival at your new space. Pack each of these items separately, that way you don't find yourself needing something at the bottom of a box that is already packed away.



Tackle One Room at a Time

The good news is that you don't have to do it all at once; you can take it one room at a time, or if you've left yourself plenty of time, one drawer or one closet at a time.



OVERARCHING TIPS FOR ALL ROOMS

1

Remember that the more you dispose of or donate now, the less you will have to pack and unpack later!

2

Don't forget to label each box with what it contains and where it will go. This will save you a lot of confusion and stress as moving day approaches. Another pro-tip is to write on all sides of the box, lest the labelled side be up against a wall or covered by another box.

3

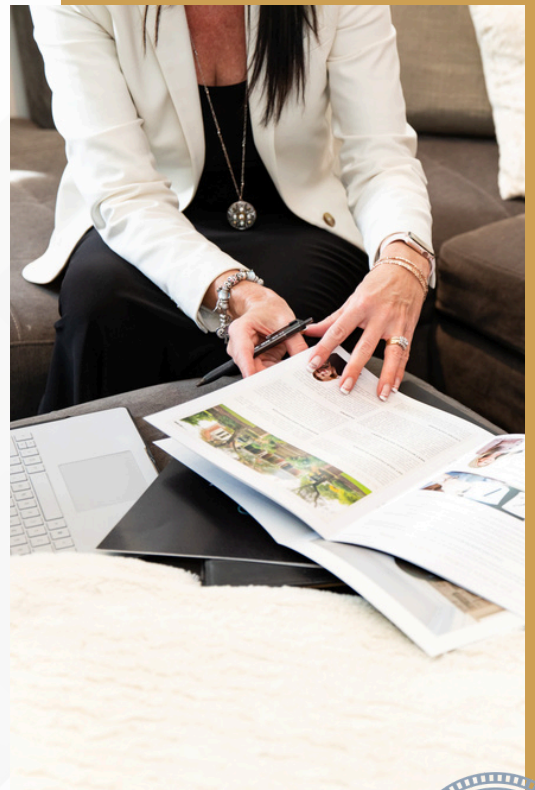
Recruit a "neutral party" to help if you need an unbiased opinion or are struggling to let go of certain things with emotional attachment. Bringing in someone with an unbiased view can help you see things from a different perspective.

4

Be ruthless about what you decide to keep. You likely need far less than you realize.

FEELING OVERWHELMED?

Contact us for support. We can connect you with professional cleaners and declutterers to make this process a breeze!



KITCHEN

- ☐ Start by sorting through everything on the very top and bottom shelves. These are likely the items you use the least often, or not at all!
- ☐ Separate perishable items from the non-perishable. Non-perishables can be donated to a food bank if you don't plan to consume them between now and moving day.
- ☐ Separate breakable items from non-breakables. Be sure to wrap fragile items carefully using bubble wrap or packing paper.
- ☐ Dispose of any food storage containers without matching lids.
- ☐ Dispose of or consolidate any duplicated cleaning supplies, oils, and condiments.
- ☐ Discard any expired food products.

BATHROOM

- ☐ Return expired medications to your pharmacy.
- ☐ Separate items that you use daily so they don't get packed too soon.
- ☐ Dispose of opened toiletries you no longer use.
- ☐ Donate unopened toiletries you have kept for six months or longer.
- ☐ Discard frayed or stained towels and facecloths.

BEDROOMS

- ☐ Discard any worn-out, stained, or frayed clothing and linens.
- ☐ Ruthlessly sort through any "junk" or "catch-all" drawers.
- ☐ Put all clothing you no longer wear into a donation pile.
- ☐ For anything you are on the fence about, you can use one of your "decide later" boxes.



PLANNING YOUR FURNITURE

When you think of decluttering, you probably only think of what you have stashed away in drawers and closets, or tucked onto display shelves. However, you may also have to make decisions about your furniture, especially when moving to a smaller space.



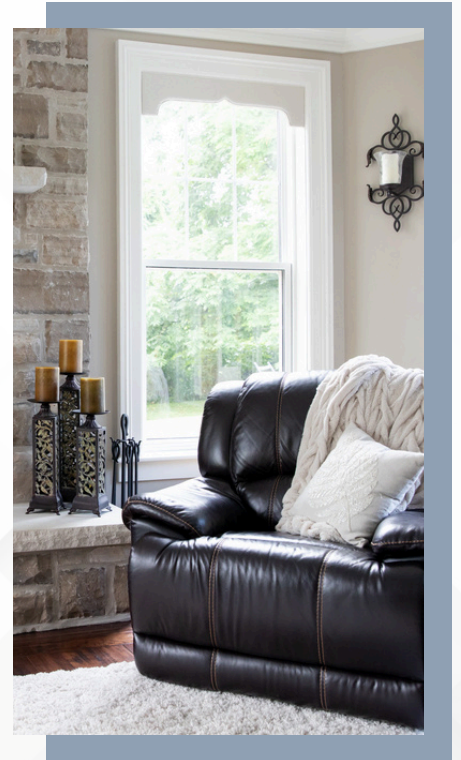
Large couches and king-sized beds may not comfortably fit in your new space. Once you know where you're going, measure each piece of furniture and use a floor plan to help determine what will and won't fit.



Remember that bulky items will make a small room look even smaller, so even if that old leather recliner technically fits, it may make the room feel cramped once it's in place.



Does your new home offer plenty of closets and storage space? If so, oversized dressers and wardrobes may no longer be necessary.



CONTACT YOUR LOCAL DONATION CENTRES

Habitat for Humanity Halton, ReStore

905-693-0444 ext 427
habitat-hm.ca/restore

Salvation Army Thrift Store

905-864-0948
thriftstore.ca

Diabetes Canada

1-800-505-5525
declutter.diabetes.ca

Evolve Caledon Donation Centre

905-857-7824
evolvecaledon.com/pages/donate

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

905-549-3902
ssvphaltonpc.org

Caledon Community Recycling Centre

905-791-7800
peelregion.ca/waste/community-recycling-centres





Are You Ready for Your Next Step or Looking for More?

Contact us today with any questions you may have, or sign up here to receive the latest real estate news, listings, and updates directly to your inbox.

We've got more helpful downsizing guides coming soon, so make sure you're subscribed and don't miss out!

905-873-9944 | info@lisahartsink.com



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