



15 Downsizing Organizing Tips: Lisa Snodgrass; Just 4 You Organizing, LLC

1. **Make a plan:** Never too early to start planning. Chat with your family on the downsizing you will be making. Keeping them in the loop will deter misinterpretations and stress.
2. **Decide your future living space and lifestyle:** Determining your lifestyle will help in knowing what to keep, store or purge.
3. **Take inventory one room at a time:** This will help you when you need to decide what to keep or purge.
4. **Take measurements:** If moving into a smaller space, having measurements will guide what will fit.
5. **Purge duplicate items:** Duplicate items in your kitchen, bathroom take up space
6. **Purge family items:** Children who are no longer living at home need to take their items to their home so you are not burdened by them.
7. **Keep items you use, keep items you love**
8. **Sell, Donate, Gift, Trash:** Purge items you do not use very often or have no need for anymore. You can sell, donate, gift or trash these items.
9. **Photograph cherished items:** You can take photos of items you cherish, but cannot keep, this way at least you can remember by pictures.
10. **Unload unnecessary furniture:** Furniture takes up space and weighs down your smaller home, so get it out of your way.
11. **Digitize paperwork:** If you are tech savvy or own a computer, digitize paperwork, photos etc. This saves storage room.
12. **Go through all your clothing, shoes, purses, bags:** If you haven't worn it in a while, donate it. Others are in need. Purge duplicates of clothing, how many black pants do you really need? Your closet will thank you.
13. **Purge your books:** Books are heavy and costly to move, so purge before you have to move.
14. **Garage and basement:** Pair down the number of tools and equipment to what you actually use now and plan to for future usage. Get rid of duplicate tools and keep what you can use for several tasks.
15. **Fuel up and Breathe:** It can be overwhelming and takes a lot of brain power. Take breaks, pace yourself and remember to breathe. You can do this!