

# Simplifying the Move and Preserving the Memories by Discover Organizing Inc.



Moving to a new home is one of the top stressors a person can experience. It is not only the logistics of relocating your furniture and possessions from one place to the next, but also the process of planning the move, and of course, deciding what will fit into your new home's floor plan. For some Seniors, moving may mean downsizing into a much smaller space, which creates the need to say goodbye to many items that have kept them company in their current house for as many as 60 years. Below is a checklist to simplify the move and preserve the memories.

## Planning Ahead

### 6 months

- Establish your move team-children, friends, professional move management companies
- Research senior move management services
- Determine what to do with your home. Secure a professional real estate agent and/or attorney.
- Sort through photos and personal papers. Work in 2-hour increments.
- Start a file for all your moving paperwork.

### 5 months

- Declutter Attic, Garage and Basement, dispose hazardous waste. Determine what to trash, sell, donate and keep. Work in two-hour increments.

### 4 months

- Declutter living areas of home. Determine what to trash, sell, donate and keep. Work in two-hour increments.

### 3 months

- Declutter sleeping areas of home. Determine what to trash, sell, donate and keep. Work in two-hour increments.
- Have antiques, pieces of art, and other valuables appraised.

### 2 months

- If you will be using a mover, interview three professional movers for quotes. Be flexible with move date...changing the month and day of the week may save money. Make sure you know what happened if they run late, or if there is a problem with delivery of your items.
- If you will be moving yourself, get costs from at least two truck rental companies.
- Finalize your community choice and complete paperwork and financial commitments. Learn about move in guidelines. Establish move in dates. Secure a floor plan of new home. Take photos of your new facility to aid in packing.

- Use a floor plan to determine furniture placement.
- Select your professional movers and select a move date.
- Determine if your pets are or are not moving with you. Make arrangements to fulfill this decision.

### **1 month**

- Make a memory album or video
- Call insurance agent to see if change in policy is needed.
- Order moving supplies
- Check to see if you need any moving permits if you are moving yourself.
- Fill out USPS change of address paperwork
- Notify all physicians of your moves and fill prescriptions.
- Pack non-essential and seasonal items. Start a master list of boxes. Record box number content and room placement (kitchen, master bedroom)
- Start using foods and cleanings supplies that cannot be moved.
- Arrange for cleaning and repair of furniture, drapes, and carpeting.
- Schedule disconnection of utilities of current home.

Phone

Internet

Cable

Water

Garbage

Gas

Electric

### **3 weeks**

- Notify services about change of address:
- Insurance
- Credit card companies
- Social Security Administration
- State Vehicle Registration

- State/Federal Tax Bureau
- Pharmacy/prescription delivery program
- Banks and print new checks with new address
- Magazines and newspapers

## **2 weeks**

- Confirm movers (date, time, pricing)
- Take photos of the back of your computer and televisions to aid in set up.
- Service your car in preparation for the move. If you're moving from a warm climate to a cold one, check your antifreeze.
- Return any borrowed items (including library books) and retrieve any loaned items.
- Assemble a file folder of information to leave for the new owner of your home.

## **1 week**

- Separate valuable items to transport yourself.
- Pack a "Week's Worth" for the Transition in a suitcase that goes with you.
- Pack a First Night Box. Include paper plates, plastic utensils and cups for meals the first few days
- Prepare a small tool kit to use during the move.
- Designate an area for all the items you are personally moving.
- Create a detailed moving day schedule.
- Pick up laundry and dry cleaning.

## **1-2 Day prior to Moving Day**

- Drain power equipment of oil and gas. Drain water hoses.
- Find new homes for plants that will not be moved.
- Confirm all arrangements.
- Defrost refrigerator and freezer, propping doors open.

## **Moving Day and Delivery Day**

- Wear comfortable clothing. Keep hydrated and fed.
  - Review the day's activity with your moving team.
  - Remove bedding and take beds apart. Check each room for items left.
  - Note all utility meter readings.
  - Verify utilities work at new home.
  - Check your belongings carefully and note on the inventory paperwork any damaged items.
  - Be prepared to pay your mover with cash, certified check or traveler's checks unless other arrangements have been made in advance. Consider tipping or providing lunch/dinner.
  - Assemble bedding and important personal spaces first.
  - Begin unpacking essentials for kitchen, bathroom.
  - Connect electronics: phones, television, computer
- Begin the new chapter of your life. Take time to have your family be with you for the first meal.**

## **After the Move**

### **1 week**

- Unpack all the boxes
- Explore your new surroundings.

### **2 weeks**

- Keep an eye on yourself. Moving is stressful and adjusting to your new home may take time.
- Recycle or dispose of all moving items
- Make the space your home. Decorate.

### **3 weeks**

- If needed establish new services-banks, hair dressers, dry cleaners
- Notify your friends of your new address.
- Remember that it takes time to make the new surrounding feel like home. Be easy on yourself.

## 1 Month

- Treat yourself to something special for completing this transition to your new home.

## 1 Year

- If there are any boxes still unpacked...get rid of them.

Discover Organizing Inc. is a full service organizing and downsizing firm located in Pittsburgh. We have a team of organizing professionals that can help our clients make decisions on what to bring to their new home, and what to leave behind. We do all of the tedious work to prepare a home for sale, including removing clutter, and staging each room. Our group of professionals also can pack, coordinate the move, and unpack items quickly, so that our clients can begin their new adventure right away.

[www.discoverorganizing.com](http://www.discoverorganizing.com)