

THE **BANDIMERE** team

Downsizing & Decluttering TIPS



Considering a smaller home? Whether you're transitioning to an apartment, condo, townhome, or a house with less space, these tips can assist you in downsizing and settling into a more compact living area!

KNOW THE WHY OF DOWNSIZING

There are many reasons you might choose to downsize your home: retirement, embracing a minimalist lifestyle, saving money, relocating to a new city, or adjusting to an empty nest once the kids go to college. No matter your reason, parting with belongings and settling into a smaller space can be challenging. However, staying focused on the motivation behind your move can make this life change a bit smoother. Being in the right mindset is crucial for making quick decisions and taking action. If you're not in that mental space, don't waste your time trying to decide. When you are in the right mood, decisions will come much more easily.

FOCUS ON THE POSITIVES

Keeping the advantages of downsizing in mind can make the prospect of small-space living more appealing. This move could enable you to pay off debt, take more vacations, or begin a future savings fund. Additionally, you might find relief in not having to handle home improvements, maintain a lawn, or stress over a mortgage. Focus less on the space you've given up and more on the new opportunities you've gained. Embrace the opportunity to recycle and repurpose. It is also best to reassess your home's value.

HERE'S SOME TIPS FOR ASSESSING THE VALUE OF YOUR HOME.

DRAFT A BUDGET



When downsizing your home, you'll most likely be downsizing your spending, too. By moving to a smaller home, you can save on mortgage payments, property taxes, insurance costs, utilities expenses, and more. Be sure to review your living expenses to see where you can make adjustments and cuts and determine how you'd like to use your downsizing savings.

BE AWARE OF COMMON MISTAKES

It's important to acknowledge the benefits of downsizing, but being realistic about the challenges is equally essential. You might be tempted to spend on new items if you believe you'll save a lot of money later. However, a common mistake is overestimating your potential savings. Another frequent issue is discarding old belongings that could still be useful in your new space. While you will need to part with some possessions, being thoughtful and strategic about what to keep and what to discard can help avoid future complications.

DECLUTTER YOUR HOME

Before you downsize, it's crucial to declutter your home! Moving to a smaller space requires you to clear out some items to ensure everything fits comfortably. Take the time to go through your belongings before relocating. Use decluttering techniques like the Four-Box Method or KonMari to begin, and adopt new organization habits that you can carry over to your new space.

Four-Box Method:

- In this method, you use four boxes and label them as "Keep," "Sell," "Donate," and "Trash." As you go through each room in your home, decide where each item belongs and place it in the appropriate box.
- **Keep:** Items you want to retain and take with you to your new space.
- **Sell:** Items you can sell, either at a yard sale or online, to make some extra money.
- **Donate:** Items you can donate to charities or friends and family.
- **Trash:** Items that are no longer usable and should be discarded.

KonMari Method:

- The KonMari method was popularized by Marie Kondo, a Japanese organizing consultant and author. The method is centered around the idea of keeping only items that "spark joy."
- Go through your belongings by category (such as clothing, books, papers, etc.) rather than by location.
- For each item, hold it and ask yourself whether it brings you joy. If it does, keep it. If not, thank the item for its service and let it go.
- This approach emphasizes gratitude for the items you choose to let go and encourages you to maintain a tidy, organized space.

Once you're done decluttering, the next step is to prepare for moving.

**CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD THE ONLY
MOVING CHECKLIST YOU'LL EVER NEED.**

CHANNEL YOUR INNER MINIMALIST

A proven strategy for downsizing and decluttering is to embrace minimalism. This approach is particularly effective when transitioning to a smaller home, as it helps you focus on the possessions that truly matter and identify where excess is hindering you. Consider applying these minimalist tips for decluttering and organizing as you move into your new space.



TAKE MEASUREMENTS

Make sure to prioritize taking measurements as a key part of your downsizing checklist. Note the dimensions of each room in both your current and new homes to understand which furniture pieces will or won't fit. This step will help you avoid wasting time and emotional energy on deciding which furniture and large items to take with you.



PRIORITIZE SPACE- SAVING FURNITURE

Transitioning to a smaller space? Multi-functional items will be invaluable to you! If you already own space-saving furniture such as a wall desk, coffee tables that serve as seating or storage, or a drop-leaf dining table, make sure to take them with you. Opting for furniture that serves multiple purposes is essential for making the most of a downsized home!

DECIDE ON LARGE ITEMS EARLY

Are you bringing several vehicles to your new home? Will you be keeping the fridge? What about the washer and dryer? A helpful strategy for downsizing is to start with your largest items first. This approach will make it easier to decide what to do with smaller belongings.



CONSIDER RENTING SELF STORAGE

Renting a storage unit can help you avoid selling something you might still need or overcrowding your new home. This gives you additional time to decide what to do with items you're unsure about and provides a space for belongings you want to keep but lack room for.

GET RID OF DUPLICATES

A straightforward approach to downsizing your home is to remove duplicate items. Clear out extra dishes, wall art, baskets and bins, and other unneeded duplicates to focus on the essentials. With limited space, keep your favorites and donate, sell, or discard the rest.

SORT THROUGH SENTIMENTAL ITEMS

Don't rush this emotionally charged task! For seniors or anyone with many keepsakes and memorabilia, a tip for downsizing is to start sorting through your belongings early. Create piles for items you definitely want to keep, those you're undecided about, and those your children, family, or close friends might be interested in. This way, you can mentally prepare yourself to let go of meaningful possessions.

CREATE AN INVENTORY



A key piece of advice for downsizing your home is to stay organized as you sort through your belongings. Create an inventory and categorize items into keep, donate, sell, or store piles. Organizing these items in boxes or in designated areas can help, and having a list or photos to reference will be useful on moving day.

INVOLVE THE ENTIRE FAMILY

Downsizing the family home? Involve everyone! This approach not only prevents you from discarding something valuable, but it also helps distribute the workload. You can also invite friends over to take items you no longer need, which is another effective way to downsize quickly.



TAKE EXTRA TIME WITH KIDS

Moving with kids can be quite challenging. Since they may not grasp the advantages of parting with some of their toys, take additional time to sort through their books, games, and stuffed animals together. Turn the activity into a game, discuss the reasons for the move with them, and help them look forward to the future.

PRACTICE RECYCLING

Turn the transition into a green move by recycling and repurposing. Every item counts towards a more sustainable future!

HERE ARE SOME RECYCLING SITES THAT MIGHT HELP YOU.

- [Anoka County](#)
- [Hennepin County](#)
- [Ramsey County](#)
- [Washington County](#)
- [Wright County](#)
- [Dakota County](#)
- [Carver County](#)
- [Scott County](#)
- [Sherburne County](#)
- [Chisago County](#)
- [Isanti County](#)

READY TO DOWNSIZE?

After applying all these tips on your downsizing journey, you are now ready to move and might have decided to sell your home! You might now be wondering about things like how to best prepare your home for selling or getting it in tip-top shape. We've got you covered with a list of trusted vendors and contractors that can help you.

[CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT HOW.](#)

We look forward to working with you. Remember, we have excellent vendors for almost everything you need. If you have any questions, please call The Bandimere Team at (612) 594-3810.