



Downsizing Checklist: Your Step-by-Step Guide to a Simpler, More Enjoyable Life

Step 1: Evaluate Your Current Situation

- Assess Your Space Needs:
 - How much space do you really need?
 - Consider your lifestyle now: Do you need extra bedrooms, a large yard, or multiple bathrooms?
- Define Your Priorities:
 - What aspects of your current home do you absolutely love? (e.g., garden, kitchen, living space)
 - What can you live without in your new home? (e.g., extra storage, stairs, large yard)

Step 2: Decide What to Keep, Sell, or Donate

- Start Small—Tackle One Room at a Time:
 - Begin with less sentimental areas like the garage or laundry room.
 - Sort through closets, kitchen cabinets, and storage areas.
- Sort Items into Categories:
 - Keep: Items you truly need or love.
 - Sell: Items with value you can part with.
 - Donate: Items that are still in good condition but no longer serve you.
 - Toss: Broken or unusable items.
- Create a Decluttering Schedule:
 - Plan to declutter for 30 minutes a day or set larger weekend sessions. Set goals for each week (e.g., “This week I’ll sort through the kitchen cabinets”).

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Step 3: Plan Your Home's Sale

- Prepare Your Home for Market:
 - Declutter and Stage: A decluttered home looks larger and more inviting. Consider hiring a professional stager to maximize the value of your home.
 - Clean and Repair: Make any minor repairs (e.g., touch-up paint, fix leaky faucets).
 - CMA = Comparative Market Analysis: Know the value of your home to make informed decisions on listing price.
- As your Real Estate Agent:
 - We specializes in downsizing and working with empty nesters. We can take over most of the task that need to be done to get your home ready for a successful sale.
 - Please read your reviews.

Step 4: Start Researching Your Next Home

- Determine Your Ideal Location:
 - Do you want to stay close to family?
 - Are you ready for a change of scenery? Consider proximity to doctors, amenities, parks, and public transportation.
- Consider Home Features:
 - Single-story living or elevator access?
 - How much maintenance are you willing to do (e.g., yard work, cleaning)?
 - Do you need extra storage or space for guests?
- Set a Budget:
 - How much equity will you gain from selling your current home?
 - What can you afford for your new home, including moving expenses and any renovations?

Step 5: Begin Packing for the Move

- Start Early—Pack in Phases:
 - Begin with non-essential items (holiday decorations, extra books, etc.).
 - Label boxes clearly and keep a list of contents for each box.

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- Use Professional Movers (If Needed):
 - Get quotes from moving companies that specialize in helping people downsize.
 - Consider hiring a senior move manager to assist with packing and organizing.
- Take Photos of Sentimental Items:
 - If you have emotional attachment to certain items (e.g., furniture, memorabilia), consider taking photos of them before you let go.

Step 6: Say Goodbye to Your Old Home

- Host a Farewell Gathering:
 - If possible, invite close friends and family over to say goodbye to your home. It can be an emotional but uplifting way to close this chapter.
- Keep Important Documents Safe:
 - Make sure you have all the necessary documents for the sale of your home, including titles, insurance information, and any important paperwork related to the move.

Step 7: Settle into Your New Home

- Unpack One Room at a Time:
 - Don't rush—take your time setting up each room in your new home so that it feels comfortable and organized.
 - Focus on making the most important spaces (e.g., bedroom, kitchen) feel settled first.
- Make It Your Own:
 - Arrange your furniture, hang photos, and display keepsakes that make your new space feel like home.
 - Consider adding personal touches, such as a new coat of paint or a few plants.
- Connect with Neighbors and Community:
 - Introduce yourself to neighbors and explore your new community.
 - Take advantage of nearby amenities or join social groups to meet new friends.

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Step 8: Celebrate Your New Chapter

- Reflect on Your Journey:
 - Take time to appreciate how far you've come—both in terms of downsizing your belongings and embracing a new lifestyle.
- Enjoy Your New Space:
 - You've worked hard to make this transition. Now it's time to enjoy your new, simpler, and more manageable life!

Bonus Tips for Downsizing:

- Digitize Important Documents: Consider scanning important paperwork (e.g., family photos, tax documents, and old letters) so you can store them digitally and free up physical space.
- Rent Storage If Needed: If you're not ready to part with certain items, rent a small storage unit to keep items you might want in the future.
- Embrace the "One In, One Out" Rule: As you settle into your new space, adopt the habit of letting go of an item each time you bring something new in.

By following this checklist, you'll be able to navigate the downsizing process with confidence and peace of mind. You're not just moving, you're embracing a new, simplified lifestyle that gives you more time, more freedom, and more opportunities to enjoy what matters most.

Ready to explore your options? Contact us today for a FREE personalized downsizing consultation!

**Wayne CORY**

REALTOR of COLDWELL BANKER

510-689-9969

wayne.cory@cbnorcal.com

Lic# 01431677

Joseph CHEN

REALTOR of COLDWELL BANKER

510-305-1321

joseph.chen@cbnorcal.com

Lic# 01823606

