

How to pack for the big move?

Here are just a few simple packing tips that can help make moving faster, more efficient, and maybe even save you some money—what’s not to love about that?

1. Make a plan

This is the most important part of packing—and it’s also where most people go wrong. You know how the saying goes: ***If you fail to plan, you’re planning to fail.***

Once you know what date your mover is coming, you’ll want to plan your packing days. (If you haven’t hired a mover yet, then now is the time to start shopping around). And don’t expect to pack up your whole three-bedroom house in one day —it always takes longer than you expect.

Block out two or three full days on your calendar. List the rooms you need to pack up and assign a few of them to each day.



Pro tip

Pack up a big central room first so you can use it as a “Packing Zone” where you keep all of your supplies and finished boxes. *For-the-love-of-organization . . .*

Label Label Label Your Boxes as you bring them into this Packing Zone.

2. Measure absolutely everything

There’s a right time to measure your furniture, and then there’s a wrong time.

When the exhausted movers are trying to force your five-piece sofa through the front door of your new house, guess what time it is? You guessed it—that’s the wrong time to be measuring.

It's best to take the measuring tape to your big appliances and furniture pieces before you pack them away on the truck. Measure your furniture, then measure the door you'll be carrying them through to make sure they'll fit. Watch out for those clunky coffee tables, large paintings, and oddly-shaped shelves.

Another benefit of accurate measuring is that you know what size you'll need for your [truck rental](#) or [moving container rental](#) if you're doing the move on your own. And if you find that something won't fit in your new place, that's just one less thing to pack! Which brings us to . . .

3. Purge!

Organizing guru Marie Kondo said that “the question of what you want to own is actually the question of how you want to live your life.”² Well, what better time to get rid of your excess baggage (and change how you live your life) than when you're about to lug it across the country?

Got a bunch of pants that no longer fit? Donate them to a thrift store. What about that grill that you used once four summers ago? Ask the neighbors if they want it. You might even get some tax write-offs if you donate the old clunker in the garage to a charitable cause.

4. Use high-quality materials

There's only one thing between your prized possessions and the dangerous elements: a thin layer of cardboard. So make it count.

You might be able to reuse old boxes that survived your last move, but if they're not in tip-top shape, you risk having whatever's inside end up on the sidewalk—or worse.

Likewise, you can use newspaper to pack fragile items, but you risk smudges and breaks.

If you don't already have quality supplies, why not just spend a few extra bucks for new boxes, packing foam, and a roll of strong packing tape? You can buy these supplies from your local moving company.

5. Label your boxes

If you only remember one tip from this list, let it be this one: label, label, label! When your stuff is sitting in a stack of identical brown boxes, it's nearly impossible to remember where you put that Phillips-head screwdriver or that very important tax document.

There are many ways to label. Some use colored tape to signify where each box belongs. Others just write "kitchen" or "living room" in Sharpie. I prefer to use stickers. Slap one on each box and write out the individual contents—you'll thank yourself later!

6. Switch your utilities

When we think about what we need to pack, we tend to think about things that fit into boxes. But, given the choice, most of us would "unpack" a high-speed internet connection long before we worried about getting our Tupperware organized in the kitchen cabinets.

If you want your new place to be Netflix-ready on day one, then start contacting internet service providers in the area at least a few weeks before your move. While you're at it, you can call the gas and electric companies, and check your cell phone carrier's reception in the area.

Speaking of things that don't fit into boxes, have you figured out how your car is going to get to your new home? Now's a good time to map out the route on Google or just hire an [auto carrier](#) to do the road trip for you.

7. Ask for help

A few extra hands (and brains) make packing less boring and more efficient. I like to order pizza and put on some tunes to try to convince my friends it's a party.

Whatever your style is, now's the time to call in favors from old pals. While you're at it you should pick up some ice cream to bribe the kids into helping. And maybe ask your partner to forgive you preemptively for being cranky on moving day!

Floor:

Room:

<u>Keep</u>	<u>Toss</u>	<u>Sell</u>	<u>Donate</u>

How to use the KTSD worksheet - Go through all rooms and spaces of the areas you want to declutter. Go through each category separately and sort each item into one of four piles: keep, toss, sell or donate. Do not hesitate over anything; the longer you think about it, the more difficult it will be to let go of it. Be ruthless in this part of the process - You can do this! When is the last time you used that VHS tape or the electric juicer? What are the odds that you will be using it again?

Notes:

Keep what is worth keeping, and then with the breath of kindness blow the rest away. - Dinah Craik

The key to downsizing is to purge your life of the things you don't need without getting rid of the things you *do* need. It sounds pretty simple, but I can tell you, it's not. Somehow in our first downsizing, we ended up with no drink pitchers and my work coffee travel mugs – I still have no idea where the whole box went, but I'm assuming it was in a box we took threw in the dumpster or Goodwill.

1. Downsize the Big Stuff If You're Moving

If you know you're moving from a three-bedroom home to a two-bedroom home, there's absolutely no reason for you to move three beds, three dressers, and three bedside tables to your new place. It costs money to haul big furniture, and if there's nowhere to put it once you get to the new place, you'll just have to pay for a storage unit.

2. Take the Small Stuff With You

If you're moving, or if you're just fed up with the clutter in your home, you may be tempted to give away or sell a lot of small items, such as clothing, knick-knacks, dishes, and decor. However, you may want to take this step slowly. It's a good idea to go through your stuff to get rid of the general junk that tends to accumulate in a home, but don't start getting rid of items you regularly use or still enjoy – remember what Marie says “if it doesn't bring you Joy . . . SayÑnara!

3. Go Through Every Box

I am amazed at the number of boxes that have followed me multiple times across the country when we were Navy and moving every two years. Many of these boxes were filled with “keepsakes” my mom and friends gave me at some point growing up. Eventually, though, I was moving into my first apartment (studio unit) I went through all of my boxes. What started as three large boxes of my childhood art projects, vinyl records photographs, cards, and scrapbooks was quickly pared down to one small vintage suitcase. I had that suitcase for years before I got married. Whatever I wanted to add to the suitcase, I had to give away or toss something out to accommodate the new item. I was 17 years old when I adopted this ritual for myself and still years later I still follow the rule. BUY 2 NEW ITEMS TOSS 2 OLD ITEMS!

4. Plan Your Storage Before Downsizing Further

Once you've separated the items you no longer bring you joy or use, you may still be left with more stuff than you think you have room to store. This is the point where it's tempting to start giving away items in an effort to free up space. However, before you start giving away things you actually use, need, or want, assess and plan your storage process.

5. Create a Plan to Get Rid of Unwanted Items

Once you've identified which items aren't coming with you to your new home, you have several options for getting rid of them:

- **Donate or Freecycle:** Give something you no longer need to someone who does. Local charities usually accept clothing, shoes, and other household items that are in good condition. You can also try posting to freecycle.org or a Facebook resale group.
- **Have an Estate Sale:** One person's trash is often another person's treasure. If you're downsizing a lot of your belongings before the move, consider having an estate sale to make some extra cash. Furniture, toys, books, kids' clothes, power tools, and lawn equipment are usually popular items at a garage sale.
- **Rent a Dumpster:** Chances are, not everything you're getting rid of will be in good enough condition to donate or sell. Renting a dumpster is a stress-free option if you have a lot to downsize and declutter, or if you're throwing away larger household items, like broken appliances or tattered furniture.
- **Pass Down to Loved Ones:** It's difficult to declutter sentimental items you no longer have use for but that hold certain memories. If there are family heirlooms in good condition that you feel a family member or friend would enjoy, offer to give them as a gift.

Notes:

**How To Set-Up An Estate Sale
Planning, Organizing, and Selling
That can turn your clutter into cash**

We're all getting older but the Baby Boomers are entering retirement at a rapid rate and downsizing with fewer children, what the hell to do with "my stuff" has become a more pressing question. Now more than ever, people are looking for estate sale professionals who can accurately appraise and sell items for the most money possible. You can do this yourself and make some cash off your own clutter. I'm not saying you can't call us if the task is too much to handle. ;)but, you can do this ...

The best advice I can give you to learn more about Estate liquidation gig is to attend as many as you can in your local area. This helps you to see what the people in your region are looking for - antique tools, dishware, garden tools, etc? I have learned that people living in the city are not looking for the same items as the people in rural regions. For the city folks, they look for items that can be used in multiple ways, items that are lightweight, portable with some uniqueness along with vintage items.

Mark

Setting up to the market to both city & rural folks is where the fun comes in . . . staging your estate sale. Your homework is to visit a few local estate sales to see the various styles of Estate Liquidation services use to market to the Locals.

And then, just let your imagination go as the cash pile grows!

Five Steps To Take Before The Fun: DO NOT SKIP THESE!!

Sorting Estate Sale Merchandise . . . ALL of it!

Give yourself plenty of time to sort through the merchandise. Even if it's your own, you'll have to go through every attic, closet, storage shed, basement, cupboard, and drawer.

Pricing Estate Sale Merchandise

Research is the key to pricing goods for an estate sale. Some of the things you think will bring a lot of money won't—and some things you might not even plan to include maybe the very first things to sell. Price every item you plan to sell - the stuff you are not selling needs to be packed away.

Displaying Merchandise at an Estate Sale

When possible, display estate sale merchandise in the room where it's commonly used. Take folded clothes, bedsheets, and blankets out of drawers and display the stacks on top of beds and dressers. Display dinnerware, serving pieces, and table linen stacks atop the table and sideboard in the dining room. Empty the kitchen cabinets and place mixing bowls, pots and pans, utensils, and small appliances on the kitchen table and countertops. This helps anyone who wants to purchase the furniture - they are not waiting around for you to empty drawers and cabinets!

Marketing & Advertising Your Estate Sale

You have to advertise your estate sale in numerous ways to maximize the number of shoppers who attend. Place classified listings on Craigslist (include photos) don't use the newspaper! Unless it's a huge sale event. People use social media or apps to find their nearest yard or estate sale. If you're holding the sale in a small town near a city, market the event with flyers to post online and in windows. Display the ad that draws the eye and gives you more room to list the details and goods.

Managing Customers During an Estate Sale

Theft is an issue at any sale, and particularly so at estate sales where the merchandise is displayed in numerous rooms. If you have valuables throughout, hire security or enlist volunteers to help. Station someone in each area or have them wander frequently from room to room. But, make sure they don't offend honest customers. Instead of letting them loom, instruct them to smile, nod, and say hello to shoppers while they keep watching.

Never let shoppers in the door of an estate sale before it's scheduled to start. Keep the doors locked, and place signage to indicate where they should line up until the sale begins.

A Bonus Helpful Step . . . Have a Plan for Leftovers

Call area donation centers ahead of time to find out what their policies are on large donations. If you have a lot of unsold items, you may be able to arrange a truck to come to pick them up at the end of the sale, or you can assign someone to take them to a drop-off location. Never leave large piles of garbage or recycling on your curb without calling your town's waste management provider first for permission, or you could incur a fine.



Follow the checklist below



Estate Sale Setup Checklist

1. Create an Inventory (walk through room-by-room)
2. Secure or remove personal items
3. Take pictures of the contents

***Furniture**

***Art**

***China**

You can use these photos to document a home's content you can share with your heirs - it will save you time and headaches for the future

4. Fix and Clean what we can
5. Price Your Items
6. Create Good traffic flow

***Clear debris**

***Establish clear paths throughout the home**

***Post a General Inventory sheet in each room**

7. Clearly mark off-limit items
8. Take security measures
9. Take great photos
10. Advertise, Advertise, Advertise
11. Enlist help - someone for setup at entering/exit
12. Have a plan for leftovers

These Categories ENHANCE Your Estate Sale:

- Kitchen items
- Books

- Broken jewelry
- Tools
- Clothing
- Cleaning Supplies (Full ones)
- Bedding and Linen
- Small decorative items
- Outdated stereo equipment
- Old paper, magazines, advertising
- Records
- Stationary / Office supplies
- Outdoor / Garden items
- Craft supplies

Canva This! Go to canva.com set up a free account ... and have fun!

1. Your Signage:

*Do Not Enter

*Kids Under 10 Must be accompanied by an adult

*All Items 25% or 50%, etc

*More stuff in the Shed, Basement, Upstairs, etc.

*This Way Upstairs → To The Shed → This Way To Basement, etc.

2. Post an Inventory Sheet outside of each room, including the item and price.

3. Use picture frames that are for sale as advertising tools - I use them to post "all items on this table is \$1 each" it's a great way to sell toy collections or small grouped items.

If you read through this article, and the thought of making some money appeals to you but not having to go through all "your stuff"

Contact us we're unique - we have a Clean + Organize method we use to get you to the Sale Day.

Your Pre-sale Checklist

Before booking your market evaluation appointment to discuss your home-sale strategy, here are a few things you can do to prepare for a fast and fiscal sale.

Buy more light bulbs

Go ahead and stock up on light bulbs for all rooms. When showing your house to potential buyers, all light fixtures and lamps will need to be turned on. The purpose for this, it's important that all lights in your home have working light bulbs.

Give your house a deep clean

First impressions mean a lot. So don't let foul smells, dirty floors, and dusty surfaces make a bad one on a potential buyer. Before listing your home (***and throughout the home-selling process***), give your home a deep clean. This means cleaning toilets, wiping down surfaces, mopping floors, cleaning rugs, and scrubbing bathrooms. Consider calling in the professionals (think about it: *let someone else who loves to clean the dirt take care of the cleaning maintenance during the process*) to ensure that your place is in pristine condition.

Declutter the home

Decluttering and organizing your space will go a long way in appealing to potential buyers. When a home is clutter-free, buyers are able to focus on the actual home instead of on the junk, knick-knacks, and overflowing closets.

Call a handyman to handle repairs

When selling a house, you should have your handyman in your contacts on your cell phone. Make sure anything and everything that needs to be fixed (locks, hardware, leaky faucets, running toilets, cracks in the walls, broken appliances, squeaky doors, etc) has been taken care of before listing a home. Otherwise, buyers may think your home hasn't been well taken care of, which can be a turn-off for many. For advice on how to find a handyman, check out Angie's List, Homeadvisor, Yelp, Houzz, and other sites that can help you find a professional in your area.

Paint the walls

Now's the time to repaint your home. Start by painting over those bright oranges and dark cranberry walls with neutral colors. Stick to whites, light grays, light beiges, and light bluish-gray wall colors. These shades will make your home appear bigger, brighter, and more welcoming. Adding a fresh coat of paint to your home will also help cover the wall imperfections and feature a blank slate to potential home buyers.

Stage your home

According to multiple studies, staging a home really can help it sell faster and for more money. Fortunately, staging your home's interior is easy and affordable. Check out [Home Stagers in CT](#) before listing it for sale. Don't forget to also spruce up your home's curb appeal when staging the home. After all, the outside of the home is the first thing potential buyers will see when they pull up for a showing. So make sure that the grass is cut, the yard is landscaped and the debris and clutter are gone (*gnomes and children's toys*). If your home is looking a bit rundown, you should also consider adding a fresh coat of paint to the exterior walls. Don't forget to paint your front door.

Hire a professional photographer

We know many potential buyers search for homes online, it's imperative to include high-quality, professional photos in your online listing. Without excellent high-resolution images, potential buyers may (sadly) be swept on by your home. So before putting it on the market, go ahead and hire a professional photographer to snap photos of your clean, organized and staged home. You might want to check with your local college, students that are studying photography may be looking for a side gig or credit. Also, keep in mind that a Realtor should be able to help with finding a photographer, so be sure to ask who they use when interviewing real estate agents for the job.

Depersonalize your home

When selling a home, you want to create an “emotional house” referring to a home that has been loved and cared for down to its details. It’s not about the ‘Wow’ factor, it’s about the ‘Ahh’ feeling you get when you enter a room and suddenly find yourself at ease.

Depersonalizing your home means putting away the majority of framed photos, bulletin boards, and personal items (*photo albums, magazines, toys, equipment, awards, etc*) throughout the home. Leave a few nice, framed photos around the house to make the home appear inviting and lived in.

Start Packing

Sort and purge your out-of-season clothing, sporting gear, and small appliances you know you won’t need before the move. Too much stuff crammed into cupboards and closets will make your home seem small.

Lifestyle by Design

Clean+Organize

Package Details

Hourly rate: \$50/hour

Minimum of 3 hours to book

Sessions: 3 hours \$150, 4 hours \$200, 5 hours-\$250, 6 hours- \$300

16 hour package- \$800 (Save 10%)

32 hour package- \$1600 (Save 15%)

48 hour package- \$2400 (Save 20%)

80 hour package- \$4000 (Save 30%)

Work & Space {Organizing} Projects

- Overwhelmed?
- We're here to help
- To make your life easier
- To boost Productivity & Happiness

Package Details



For each Client we provide

- Complete confidentiality
- 100% judgment-free experience



The packages are based on the amount of {wo}man hours we spend working in the office



We give small businesses big business perks! Trash haul away, Donation drop-off, free paper shredding, meeting assistance, holiday decorating



Package quotes include: time spent designing, sourcing, shopping for products

The last tidbit . . .

When you book us, you will work with us and just us from beginning to end. Depending on the project, we have our own hires with credentials, training, and skills. You will never be assigned a subcontractor.

Notes: