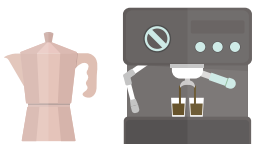


SAVE THIS!



TIPS ON DECLUTTERING:

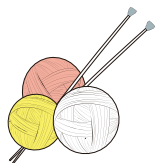
If you are planning a house move, you want to leave plenty of time to declutter so that you are not wasting time packing unneeded items and not wasting money moving items you don't need to your new home. People underestimate the purging process and often wait to the last minute and then are forced to throw things into boxes which wind up staying in boxes for years to come. This causes instant clutter in the new location. So, how do you decide what to keep and what to toss or donate? Here are a few tips:



1. Ask yourself when was the last time you used this item.



If it was more than a few years, you are safe to toss or donate. You may ask yourself, "but what if I need it someday?" Since the "someday" hasn't occurred in years, the chances of it happening in the future are very rare. And, even if you do need it, is there a place where you can buy or borrow a replacement? Generally, there is.



2. Ask yourself does this item still serve you?



This item served you over time, but if the purpose of this item has passed and is no longer serving you, you have permission to get rid of it. Donate it to someone or some place where others can utilize it. Allow that item to serve them as well as it did you.



3. Ask yourself if this item makes you happy.

If not, let it go. An article of clothing that isn't comfortable to wear, is too tight, out-of-style, or doesn't flatter you, you can let it go. You should enjoy wearing your clothes. Say goodbye if the outfit doesn't make you feel good, even if Aunt Mary gave it to you 6 years ago.



6.

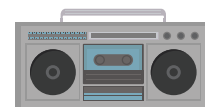
Ask yourself if there is room in your new residence for these items.

Decide which items are most important to move to the new location and get rid of the excess.



5. Ask yourself how many of this item do you already have.

You don't need to keep the 100 tote bags that you have collected when you go to the grocery stores or the 80 little pads of paper that you get from traveling to hotels or conferences.



4. Ask yourself if the item works properly.

If not, get rid of it.



7. Ask yourself if there is another way to retain the memory without retaining the item.

Could you take photos of your children's artwork and be content with the memory in photographs rather than the physical piece of paper with finger painting on it?



8. Ask yourself if you want your children or other family members to have to clear out all your stuff when you pass from this world.

Most likely, they will throw it all away so if you want to have any voice on where your items go, do it now.



9. Have a friend or family member help you or hire a Professional Organizer

Despite asking yourself all the above questions, if making decisions about what to keep and what to dispose is challenging for you, have a friend or family member help you or hire a Professional Organizer to come in.