

Declutter Checklist

General:

- Borrow a friend's garage and pay them with gift cards (or get a storage unit).
- If you don't absolutely need it now, it goes.
- Think of it as "pre-moving" so you can organize it - You're welcome!
- If you need boxes go to Dollar General or Old Navy and politely ask
- If you don't want something, sell it or give it away before you start to pre-move
- Tone down the personality to give buyers a more neutral canvas
- All storage areas (closets, pantry, drawers, cabinets, etc.) below 50% capacity
- Staging companies remove 50% of household furniture before they start
- Remove any furniture you can do without
- Open up maximum floor space and wall space
- Pay particular attention to obvious traffic walkways throughout the house
- Remove evidence of pets, politics, and religion
- Use FB marketplace/Craigslist to get rid of any unwanted stuff
- Donate the rest (Goodwill, Habitat for Humanity)
- Use old clothes, towels and linens cleaning cloths before you toss them
- Use old clothes, towels, and linens as padding for packing breakables
- Consider having your home Staged by a professional (\$2-300)

Living Room:

- Take down and pre-move all family photos
- Thin out bookshelves to under 50% capacity
- Get rid of excess DVD's and video/audio equipment that's not used
- Minimal items on coffee tables, side tables

Declutter Checklist

Living Room, Cont'd

- Minimal or no plants - they take up space and block light
- Keep shoes and coats in the closet during winter
- A hall tree/coat hook can be used, but has to be below capacity

Kitchen:

- Kill the fridge collage
- Donate unwanted unused food to local food bank or church
- Clear all counters - lack of counter space is a deal killer
- Empty cupboards and drawers to below 50%
- Keep the fridge/freezer clean, organized, and under 50% capacity
- Empty the top of the fridge and top of cabinets - keep one item if it looks good

Bathrooms:

- Take out the 1000 things in the shower and on the vanities
- All "product" and cosmetics must be eliminated or put away
- Get rid of or pre-move all products that are out of date or not used
- Shower: New soap, matching shampoo/conditioner (Like a hotel)
- Vanity: box of tissues, jars of tastefully organized items like cotton balls/q-tips
- Cabinets, closets must be below 50% capacity. Eliminate or pre-move the rest
- Depersonalize entirely - Hotel room!!
- No fuzzy toilet cover, toilet top of toilet rug
- Nothing on top of cabinets or cupboards
- Put away the scale
- Remove/secure all prescription medications

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Bedrooms:

- Bed, lamp, table, dresser and that's it unless you have a sitting area.
- Toys contained - if it looks out of control it makes the space look smaller
- Clothes to consignment shops or online services that buy used clothing
- Remove makeshift offices, unless they really function and look good
- Closets below 50% capacity - This is a top buyer priority
- Take down all photos and personal items—box them up and pre-move them
- Pre-move all extra linens and off-season clothing/shoes
- Take down all items stuck to windows and doors
- Remove TV unless mounted to the wall or on a good-looking TV stand
- Child desk/computer: Keyboard/laptop, monitor, mouse, chair, a few books only
- Remove/secure all valuables

Garage:

- Show people it is possible to park the correct number of cars in your garage
- Pre-move/sell outdoor equipment you don't need now (snowblower in June)
- Pre-move all stored items now
- Attic and wall storage should appear open and clean with lots of room
- Take down the 10,000 hooks/nails/screws you have in the walls
- What remains on the walls must look like new/organized
- Take down items stored overhead, unless you're showing off clever storage ideas
- Do not store your overflow in your garage or attic - pre-move or offsite only

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Yard/Outdoor areas:

- Patio/deck with minimal furniture to make it seem larger and not cramped
- Remove/pre-move off-season items (sidewalk salt bag/bucket in summer)
- Remove anything that looks like work (tools, chemicals, equipment, etc.)
- Remove all personal/family items
- Remove/secure all valuables
- Remove all worn furniture/fixtures (old dirty grill, worn cushions or hammock)
- Pick up any clutter from entire yard
- Gather and inconspicuously store any tools or chemicals for pool/hot tub
- Go get some ice cream or have a beer...or both