



7

HELPFUL TIPS FOR DOWNSIZING



Over time, we tend to accumulate stuff—lots of stuff. Unwanted gifts, unused furniture and that kitchen drawer full of junk you can't let go of because... well, what if you need it someday?

It's silly, but it happens all the time. And moving to a smaller home is the perfect time to lose the excess baggage and pare things down to the essentials.

1

Write a list of all the items you can't live without. Anything that's not on this list is a candidate for downsizing. Aim to get rid of half to two-thirds of your belongings.

2

Start three bins or piles: To Keep, To Sell and For Charity.

3

Start thinning out your belongings at least three months before the move and stick to a regular schedule—one morning a week can work wonders.

4

Be merciless about objects that don't have sentimental value. Do you really need a second spatula or that third pair of gardening gloves? The kitchen and the garage are good places to start for this step.

5

Recycle, reuse, sell and donate everything you can. Charities are always on the lookout for high-quality clothes and other durable items.

6

Get an objective opinion. Sometimes you need to hear someone else say, "Oh, please, you never use that!"

7

For high-value items, seek out reputable antique and second-hand dealers. Some will even make house calls and spare you a trip.



Downsizing your household might seem daunting at first, but it's easy when you have the right guidance. Here at Ryan Homes, we'll help you in any way we can to make your transition as seamless as possible.

Visit **RyanHomes.com**, or call **703.957.8550** with any questions and schedule an appointment to tour the community today!

