

MAINTAINING YOUR CLUTTER-FREE HOME

We look at our parent's homes that have been collecting clutter for decades and can't imagine getting it all organized one day. Before moving into your new home, set up systems now to ensure you are not in the same dwelling of disorder down the road.

Before you even start to unpack, take a closer look at what you are packing. We all have that legendary box that has been our faithful companion on all our moves without ever being opened. Reevaluate your possessions before you move and decide if they should make the trek with you. Likely your home decor will change so take this opportunity to start fresh. Have a garage sale or donate items you can part with. Why invest time in packing, moving and storing things you don't use, need or even like anymore?

Consider closet space in your new home. Will you have more or less space than you do in your current home? Is there a linen closet? Where will you house cleaning supplies and off season items? Before the moving day, try to visit your new home and calculate the closets. Measure your largest item to be stored to ensure there is enough room for it. Store like items together in the same place and close to where you will use them. If there is no linen closet, keep them in the room where they will be needed. Planning ahead where everything will be kept and installing closet organizers now will make unpacking a breeze.

Prime areas of storage are also the basement and garage. Will you be parking your car in the garage or will it be used strictly for storage? With the right sized shelving, there is no reason why you cannot do both. Adequate shelving is key to maximizing storage areas. Think about where to keep your gardening tools, sporting equipment and holiday decorations. If you pre-purchase shelving, have it loaded last onto the moving truck and unloaded first so boxes to be stored can easily be placed onto awaiting shelves.

By setting up storage systems in your new home ahead of time, putting everything away will be made much easier. Be realistic. Belongings you use frequently can be left out for easy access, just have less of them. Creating a home for everything now will get you on track to living a clutter-free life in your new home!