

Moving

If the decision is to sell your home and move, work with a reputable realtor to help you with the sale. Your realtor will coordinate and oversee the process of preparing and showing your home to prospective buyers. Be aware of opportunists – it is not wise to let strangers into your home.

Specialized moving services

You might consider hiring a move manager, older adult relocation specialist or organizer. These services can help you purge, pack, move, and set up your new home. Costs may vary, so talk to several companies. Understand exactly what they plan to do and the cost and ensure it is in writing.

Ask for referrals from real estate agents, friends or seniors' residences.

Resource:

Visit www.ontario.ca/page/hiring-mover

Moving tips

Use the Government of Canada's checklist when choosing a moving company (available at www.ic.gc.ca).

The checklist recommends you start with the following questions:

- Does the company know about and agree to abide by the terms outlined by the Good Practice Guidelines for Canadian Movers?
- Did they provide you with written material regarding customer and mover rights, responsibilities and liabilities?
- Is the company insured? Ask them to provide the insurance company's name and policy number.
- Does the company have its own equipment or will they use a subcontractor? Ask for the name of any subcontractor to be used, their record, and their references.
- If your belongings will be left overnight in a moving van, will the van be kept in a secure facility? If storage facilities will be used, will they be with the moving company or a third party?
- Does the mover have a Workplace Safety and Insurance Board certificate? If not, you may have to pay for employees injured during your move.
- Who will be providing services at the end of the move, such as unpacking, claims settlement and storage?

Other key recommendations

- Ask for a written estimate on company letterhead. Be sure to give the mover

precise information about the location of your old and new residence, including any potential obstacles such as stairs or elevators.

- Make sure all the details are clear, such as who is responsible for packing and whether packing items yourself affects liability, whether any licences or customs documents are required (if you are moving out of the country) and what happens to any deposits you pay.
- Check with your insurance agent or broker to find out if your household policy provides coverage during a move. If so, ask the amount of the deductible.
- Check with the moving company about the cost of Replacement Value Protection (RPV). If you don't buy RPV, the moving company is usually liable only for the current Depreciated Value (DV) of the items destroyed or lost. RPV usually carries a higher premium than DV insurance, but may offer better value.

For more information, visit www.halton.ca or call 311.



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halton.ca 311

Downsizing and Moving



2022

Fast Facts

Older Adult Advisory Committee
(OAAC)



Downsizing can be a challenging and emotional experience!

When downsizing, you will need to decide what items you will:

- keep and take with you;
- make available to family or friends;
- sell (for example, through consignment shops or dealers, online, at garage sales);
- donate to churches or charities (ask if they give charitable receipts so you can claim it on your income tax); or
- discard or recycle.

Beginning the downsizing process

- If you have time, begin decluttering and reducing before a move is close at hand. At least six to 12 months ahead is ideal.
- Get as much help and support as you can from family, friends, church communities or social service organizations.
- To reduce feeling overwhelmed, work on one room for a few hours at a time. Start with the easiest room. Stop when you begin to feel stressed or overwhelmed.
- Decluttering has the added benefit of making it easier to sell your home.

Making decisions

- Discuss what to do with certain items with family and friends, including grandchildren. Plan and discuss early so decisions can be made comfortably.
- Return to the owners any items you are storing for family members or friends.
- Dispose of outdated food and medications, clothes or extra household items that just take up space. So much can be eliminated before starting the emotional decisions about prized possessions.
- When sorting clothes, start by discarding anything that is badly soiled, worn or needs major repairs. Get rid of clothes that don't fit, are difficult to get in and out of or are uncomfortable. If moving into a long-term care home, avoid items that need dry cleaning.
- Keep items that are important to you (favourite books, hobbies, music) but limit the quantity to save space.
- Don't assume that children or grandchildren will want your treasured heirlooms.
- Collect all important papers and records and keep these together in a file box or cabinet.

- Ask an accountant, financial advisor, lawyer or tax person what records need to be retained. Shred the rest.
- Figure out how much space you will have in your new home and what items you absolutely need. Will your current furniture fit or should you consider buying new, smaller pieces?
- Make a list of what you want to take with you. Use removable colour-coded dots (for example, green dots for items to keep and a red dot for items to sell or give away).
- If selling items, for personal safety have someone with you when an exchange is arranged. Unscrupulous buyers may be looking for a deal and pay far less than an item is worth.
- Ensure enough time between moving your things to your new home and when your previous home changes ownership. This allows time to see your belongings in your new home and to pick up additional items you might need.

Remember

The cheapest mover may not be the best choice – ask for references and check with the Better Business Bureau.

Unwanted items

Research your options for getting rid of items you no longer need.

- Halton Region's website lists non-profit organizations and government facilities that take materials to discard, reuse or recycle. Visit www.halton.ca/waste or call 311.
- Contact local consignment stores or antique shops about accepting your large or small unwanted furniture and decorative items. You may have to hire movers to have large items moved to the store.
- Clothing consignment stores will take current styles in good condition.
- Local junk removal services will pick up items to go to a landfill and/or recycle, for a fee.
- Contact churches and local community service organizations to ask about items they may need or could sell in a bazaar or rummage sale.

