

Is it time to downsize your home?

By Irene Archuleta Woodworth

There are many cycles and seasons in our lives, and one of the most common is “empty nesters,” retirees or soon-to-be retirees who are looking at the idea of “downsizing” their homes and simplifying their futures. Since many of the millennials are becoming minimalists, they’re wanting less stuff than their parents accumulated. The large home with the large yard and all of the maintenance that goes with it all is getting harder for people to maintain.

I have recently been getting calls from clients who need help in this downsizing process. Some need more help than others. Here are some tips to help you.

Tips on downsizing your home

1. Assess your needs and your future.
Evaluate your overall health and what



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you are able and desire to do with your home.

2. Give yourself some time to go through your home and either donate or sell the items you no longer need or like. This is also a great time to have your kids come and look to see if there are items you will no longer be using that they would like in their own places. A good place to start is in your hall closet and go room by room.
3. Contact a redesign downsizing specialist for an initial consultation. He or she will advise you on what will need to be done to get your home ready to sell.
4. Depending on your needs, you may need to hire someone to assist you. Some clients who are not in a hurry prefer to have an estate sale to get the process going. No matter what you decide, make sure that you have a good working



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“Inch by inch life’s a cinch, but by the yard it is very hard!”



“chemistry” relationship if you hire someone for this process.

5. Check out your various options in a smaller home or condo in your desired location. Depending on your health and energy level, transitioning from a two-story to a one-story is a popular choice.

Consider some of these questions

1. How much space will you require for your daily living?
2. Will you be entertaining many or few? Perhaps your family is out of state and you now only entertain a small group of friends.
3. Will your furniture fit in your newer space?
4. How much time will you be needing to make this transition from start to finish? If you are working and can only do some of your purging in the evenings and weekends, that is a good start.
5. Keep your big picture in mind. It is easy to get overwhelmed with this task.

Remember that “Inch by inch life’s a cinch, but by the yard it is very hard!”

CASE STUDY

I thought it would be good to share an experience we had with one of our repeat and favorite clients. We had an empty nester couple that will be retiring soon. All their children were living out of state. They decided to take the leap and downsize their home and simplify their future. They realized they no longer needed the large home with the large yard and

all the work that it required. They found a condo that matched their needs, and they needed to move sooner than later.

We had a downsizing consultation first to determine what would be needed to get their home ready and staged for their upcoming sale. The biggest challenge our client had was to determine the items needed to have available for our upcoming redesign staging process. The rest of the items were going to be either given away, sold or packed away for the move. After the painters painted the home in a neutral color, we were ready to do the redesign staging. I knew that we would not have to purchase too many items since the wife had a large collection of décor that was still usable. Once we staged the home it sold in three days!

After the couple moved, we received the call to come and make their new home look and feel right with their furniture and décor. It was somewhat of a shock after they moved to their new place, and it still did not feel like their home. Our redesign service is one of my favorite things we are gifted in providing to our clients. After a couple days, our clients told us we worked our magic. I knew that we would be able to redesign their home with all of their unique pieces of furniture, art and décor. We redesigned it to make it feel and look like their home.

Irene Archuleta Woodworth is known as “Idaho’s Color Lady” and is founder and CEO of Redesign Boise (“Changing Rooms... Changing Lives”). She is a national redesign award winner, motivational speaker, certified redesigner and color consultant, and instructor on redesign and color. She has a degree in education and interior design and has taught various decorating and color classes throughout the country. For more information, visit RedesignBoise.com.

Before



After



Downsizing to a more minimalist, simpler style in your home allows you to live a simpler, more minimalist life. These photos show a room that has been modified for simplicity. (Photos provided by Irene Archuleta Woodworth)