

# Items of Value, Inc.

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## "So, You're Moving! So, You're Downsizing!"

Welcome to the club! You are about to join the group of thousands of people who have already undertaken and accomplished the noble effort of making decisions on what to save, what to move, what to give away or sell, what to throw away, and how to get where you are going. This can be a traumatic experience. However, if you follow the suggestions provided below, you can turn the experience from a nightmare with seemingly innumerable problems into an organized preplanned experience with a happy ending.

First, get out a pad of lined paper or sit down at the computer and write out these categories: (1) what to take, (2) what to give or sell to relatives and friends, (3) mover and moving date, (4) what to do with leftovers.

### 1. WHAT TO TAKE

There is always the ideal situation. Then there is the best choice in view of your situation. You need to move, and you want to select the environment that will best meet your needs and desires. Obtain or draw a measured plan of the room arrangements and square footage of each room of the place that you are moving to. Given this "finite space", you can measure your furniture and refer to your measured floor plan to see what fits and what does not. Many of the people we have helped move tell us that they took too many large items. Do you really need the large bed? Do you really need a sofa bed or other bed for guests? Who will be visiting and staying overnight that makes it cost-effective to plan for them? Take comfortable but smaller chairs and sofa. Do you really need a sofa anyway? Take dressers and cabinets with drawer space. Take smaller tables. What rugs will you need and will fit into your new living space?

Next consider what you absolutely need to live with and what you would like to take that has the most sentimental value, given the "finite space" you are moving to. Select only the clothing you use most frequently. Select the cookware, eatingware, and serving/eating utensils you use regularly. Do you really need all those coffee mugs? Select the jewelry, artwork, and knickknacks that you most like to see. This will be your hardest decision but ask yourself what is really the most important to you. Do not save and move items just because some day they will be worth more or because you feel you need to save them for someone. Now is the time to sell or give away.

Next go through books, videotapes, audiocassettes, CDs, and DVDs to select the ones you still have not used and the ones you would like to keep. This way, everything else is less important. If you have an attic, basement, or garage of "stuff", including holiday decorations, games,