

## 12 Month Decluttering & Moving Plan

If you are looking for motivation and a system to declutter your entire home in 12 months, here is a plan recommended by Lorraine Brock, Professional Organizer with Get Organized! The first step is to divide the spaces in your home into zones. A zone might include one room or two rooms or your outdoor space. Example: Zone #1 - Kitchen, Zone #2 - Pantry and Laundry Room, Zone #3 – Garage, etc. By dividing your home into no more than seven zones, you will finish decluttering before your home goes on the market.

Depending on your start date, schedule your garage, attic, or outdoor zones during a cooler month. Be sure to get everything out of the attic and make decisions on saving, giving, or disposal. As you move through, tag items you plan to give your kids or family members. If you have an external storage unit that must be eliminated before your move, assign it a zone number.

Purchase a dozen medium size sturdy boxes, packing paper, bubble wrap, and large heavy-duty trash bags to pack donations & items you will give others. If you are going to have an estate sale, do not throw anything away except obvious trash. Remember, your junk is someone else's treasure. Once trash is identified, throw it away immediately! There is no reason to put off what can be done today!

### Start decluttering one zone per month.

**7 Months Out** – Contact a realtor this month to tour your home. After completing 5 zones your home should already look less cluttered.

**6 Months Out** – You should now be ready to send & give items to your kids & family. Start home repairs & updates this month if you plan to sell your home before you move & your realtor suggests them.

**5 Months Out** – Start planning which pieces of furniture will be going to your new home and continue repairs & updates this month.

**4 Months Out** – Contact an estate sale company to help sell items you no longer want or need in your new home. Call us at Get Organized! For a referral.

As you are finalizing what you will keep and what will be sold or donated, consider hiring a home stager, if it is not included with your realtor services. Staging often results in a higher sale price and less time on the market. Home sales are very competitive, so make yours stand out.

**3 Months Out** – Contact a moving company to get a quote for moving. Ask for a separate quote for packing, unpacking, and home set-up. This will help you decide if you want to pack and unpack yourself. These services are busiest during the summer months, so start getting quotes at least 3 months before your move date.

**2 Months Out** – Once your move date is set, confirm dates with packers and movers and schedule your estate sale. Many estate sale companies and organizers will schedule a donation pickup for you, but if you have a favorite charity, schedule the donation pick-up working with your other vendors. The same

goes for final bulk pick-up & haul off, but if you are doing it yourself, you may want to schedule final bulk removal as well.

**Last month**– This is the month you may be working in your current home and your new home. You will set up & transfer, or cancel utilities, set up mail forwarding and change of address. If applicable, schedule a cleaning for your current home after your move.

Make arrangements for your pet on moving day. Pack a few days of clothing, personal items, medication, pet items, etc. to keep with you while the rest of your possessions are on the move.

***Congratulations on completing your 12-month decluttering and move plan. Now it is time to enjoy your new home.***