

Hello, Friends!

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August 2018 - Merging Two Households

You've decided to move in together and now it's time to merge the two households.

The biggest mistake I often see is that the people involved pack up everything and think they will magically have time to go through all those items at the new residence. They have just made the merger twice as difficult as it needs to be!

Why pay for moving all those items? You likely will give away, sell or throw away nearly half of them — after all, you likely don't need two ironing boards, two coffee makers or two kitchen tables.

You need to make hard decisions before you merge all that stuff! If you don't you are only putting off the inevitable, plus making the move much harder.

Here are some logical tips to make this difficult task more bearable:

Only pack the items that you are taking. Find places to donate the other things you aren't keeping. You can also try to sell things on Craigslist, plus many cities have their own Facebook "for sale" page. You also might conduct a huge garage sale, and pocket some cash for those things you haven't used lately. Some unneeded items might be welcomed at food pantries or shelters or through church / synagogue donations.

Start with the Kitchen - Make decisions with cutlery, plates, glassware, china, serving bowls, pots and pans. Again, local shelters might welcome items to help other families just starting out.

In the Living Room - What pieces of furniture are you keeping? Don't move all the unneeded pieces! Consider the floor plan at the new house. Maybe some furniture items could refresh a basement rec room or man/woman cave. Your unneeded goods might be perfect for a family recovering from a fire or flood, or someone just starting out.

Bathroom and Linen Closet – Go through your medicine cabinet, towels, facecloths, linens and pack items that you want and still use. You can donate the unused and non-expired items to a food pantry or shelter. If you have old sheets and towels, a humane society or pet shelter is a great place to forward these pieces.

Around the Bedroom – Make a decision with furniture and nicknacks and then stick to it. Now is a time to refresh your surroundings and share unneeded items with others. Remember, your former stuff will offer new horizons to others!

Don't forget the Garage – Decide on what needs to be purged from the shelves and floor. What tools and hardware do you need to keep and how will they be stored? And, what items can you do without, which might help someone else start or complete their own collection?

Down in the Basement or up in the Attic - Be thorough and hard with your decisions. You don't want to take boxes that you haven't unpacked from the last move that happened 10 years ago.

In the Study / Library - Do you have old computers and electronics lying around or old printers / scanners that don't work? Remember, you don't want to pay to have people move those relics. Places like Goodwill, Staples or Best Buy will recycle your old electronics. And, you can watch for the Hazardous Waste Day in your local community to properly handle them.

The new location should be cleaned and streamlined prior to the arrival of your stuff, so it's ready to accept your chosen few items being moved there. Make room for useful special things you have decided to bring aboard.

Best wishes in your new merged single household — sleek, fresh and filled only with the things you have chosen that really matter to you!

Your local professional organizer,

Betty Huotari

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