Seniors Guide to
MAKING A MOVE
Should I Stay or Should I Go?

Five Things to Consider Before Planning Your Senior Move



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Stay or Go?

Aging is inevitable, and so are the decisions that must be made eventually about where you'll live during your golden years.

Is it best to stay at home, move in with family, relocate to your dream vacation destination, or find a senior community that's the perfect fit?

The earlier you begin thinking about your options, the more likely you are to be able to move on your own terms and at your own pace.

5 Things to Consider Before Planning a Senior Move:



When is it time?

Many factors go into determining when it's time to make a change to your current living situation, or make a move to a new one. If you find yourself answering "yes" to most of these questions...it's probably time to make plans:

- Has there been a medical emergency or major illness that changed your mobility or ability to care for yourself or your home?
- Has there been a loss of a loved one or caretaker and you are unable (or would prefer not to) live alone?
- Are you ready for fewer responsibilities (home maintenance, yard work, cooking/cleaning)?
- Would you like to live closer to family and/or be in a community with easy access to social connections, activities, and group travel?
- Have you always dreamed of retiring to the beach or a golf community and want to get there in plenty of time to enjoy all it has to offer?



Aging In Place

A recent poll showed that more than half of people over the age of 60 have no plans to live anywhere else except home. If that sounds like you, you may be familiar with the phrase "aging in place". That simply means that you'll be planning to adapt your current home (or even moving into a new home, but still living in a private residence) to meet any of your changing needs. To ensure as much success as possible with aging in place, you'll need to make sure that your home can be adapted to meet changing accessibility and safety needs including (but not limited to): few/no stairs, wide doorways, maneuverability around kitchen and living areas for a walker/wheelchair, updated smoke/fire/emergency alarms, etc. You may also wish to begin planning for future home healthcare needs, transportation assistance, and joining a nearby senior center for social connections and activities.



Senior Communities

If you haven't toured a senior community lately, you're in for a surprise. Though the traditional "nursing home" option still exists, you'll be blown away by the newer senior communities and all they have to offer. Senior living options have definitely evolved over the decades and now offer a variety of alternatives. Doing advanced research and taking time to learn more about available local senior living community options will lesson the likelihood of having to make a hasty or ill-informed decision in the future. You can start your search online or by talking to friends/family, but the best way to learn about a community is to arrange for an in-person tour. Ask lots of questions, request a 'trial stay' if possible, and visit at a variety of times to truly get a feel for what being a resident would feel like.



Downsizing

Downsizing...the word that no-one likes to think about. But whether you have decided to age in place or move to a new home/community, streamlining your belongings is a necessary step. A few tips to make it as easy as possible:

- Take your time - start early and tackle a little bit at a time. Look online for downsizing plans that stretch out over months (or years).
- Get help - family is free, but can sometimes cause frustration. Consider hiring a professional organizer or downsizer.
- Donating to a favorite organization or giving loved items to family/friends and passing on their stories can ease the pain of letting cherished items go.
- Take photographs of loved items that you need to say goodbye to, but want to always remember.
- Consult an estate planner or your financial advisor about that documents are important to keep and which can be safely shredded or disposed of.



Smart Moves

You've picked your new home, you've successfully streamlined your belongings, and it's time to put up a 'for sale' sign...now what? Find a real estate professional specializing in senior moves. It might be tempting to handle the sale of your current home by yourself, or let a family member handle it. But by connecting early in the process with a trusted real estate professional you can save valuable time, energy, and money and have assistance with:

- Marketing and selling your home after you've moved into your new place (much less stressful).
- Selecting which cosmetic improvements and repairs to make prior to placing the home on the market.
- Pricing the home competitively and based on current market conditions.
- Handling negotiations, repairs, meddling family members, and any surprises along the way, and keeping the focus on your goals and expectations.

Want more information about your senior move?

Contact me for a free copy of:

- **Senior Guide to Estate Planning**
- **Is It Time to Rightsize Booklet**
- **Senior Downsizing Plans**
- **Having the Senior Talk with your Parents**
- **Aging In Place Safety Guide**
- **And More!**



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