

Downsizing In Place

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ORGANIZING PHOTOS AND MEMORABILIA

- 1 Gather and sort.** Collect photos into a central location. Group like items together and toss duplicates. Sort chronologically, or into themes, such as vacations or holidays.
- 2 Separate memorabilia.** A collection can also include ticket stubs, children's artwork, or prized sports medals. Display smaller memorabilia alongside photos in books. If the item is bulky, take a photo and discard the actual piece.
- 3 Repair damaged items.** Damaged photos and old slides can be scanned by a service that fixes tears and performs color correction. Look for local or on-line mail-away services that offer photo and video duplication. You can get new prints or digital files.
- 4 Store items for the future.** Never store photos in a garage or basement because of temperature fluctuations and water leaks. Great storage spots are in closets or under a bed. Look for containers labeled "acid-free" and "archival".
- 5 Keep it up!** Download monthly from your digital camera and sort prints when you get them developed. Labeling reduces guesswork later. Have empty boxes or albums on-hand to continuously work on maintaining your precious memories.

Jody Al-Saigh, Professional Organizer and member of the National Association of Professional Organizers, with a background in photography and design specializes in photo and memorabilia organizing. FREE tips on Facebook and Twitter (@PictPerfectOrg)

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