

Downsizing: from daunting to doable

DOWNSIZING from your home into a smaller one can be a daunting task. Regardless of your reasons for downsizing, the move can be made easier with some careful preparation and direction.

Develop a plan

When looking to downsize, assess your future needs, look at all the options and be well informed. Consider the features that may not be vital to you now, but that may mean more to you later, such as access to public transport and proximity to shops, restaurants and community services. If you are looking to settle close to family or friends, make sure you will be equally happy in your chosen location if they move on.

Understand your new space

A reduction in the size of your home will force you to reconsider your furnishings and belongings. Get a feel for the space in your new home by using rooms of comparable size in your existing home as a guide. Use a floorplan to sketch a rough furniture layout, this will allow you to rationalise what to keep and what to let go of. If you have the opportunity, take photographs and measurements of the rooms and storage areas in the new property to help prepare for the move.

Use the opportunity to simplify

Downsizing presents the perfect opportunity to simplify. Take time to look around your home and think about the items you love and use, sentimental or practical. People often keep things they think they may need someday, but these are commonly the same pieces that remain unused for years.

When sorting, be decisive and try to handle each item just once to minimise the risk of

holding on to excess belongings. Be ruthless with the areas of your home that have less emotional pull, such as the kitchen, garage and shed. Dispose of anything that is damaged or not worth fixing and donate or sell others.

It can also be helpful to involve family members in the sorting process. Gift treasured items to loved ones now rather than later, and let go of pieces you are holding onto with the hope others may one day want them.

Be both sentimental and smart

Photos, family memorabilia and collectables are hardest to let go of, as each tells a story, or brings back a memory. One solution is to preserve items using photo books and journals. While it may not be the same as holding the item, it is a space-saving alternative that can also be shared. Old photos you wish to keep, which predate digital files, can be scanned onto your computer.

Consider help from a professional

If the idea of decluttering and sorting, packing and unpacking seems too big, consider help. Moving home is a significant life event and the transition can be overwhelming. Companies such as handledwithcare offer a comprehensive range of services to individuals, couples and families. They provide beginning-to-end support and are sensitive to the emotional impact of relocating to ensure your move is well managed and stress free.

◆ *Handled With Care specialises in the co-ordination of retirement relocations, aged care relocations and deceased estates. Call 1300 185 866 or visit www.handledwithcare.com.au.*



It can be helpful to involve family members in the sorting process.

Photo: Darren Baker/iStock



Know Local

wilsonagents.com.au

Brighton East

3/43 Cluden Street



Live the good life

You'll enjoy the effortless townhouse lifestyle in this 3 bedroom + study residence. The layout includes open plan living / dining spilling out to huge sun deck, Caesar Stone kitch with s/steel appliances, robes to bedrooms & main with ensuite. Bonuses: split syst air con, quality carpets, rear courtyard, electric solar panels & remote garage. Ideal address for strolling to Bay St's finest cafes & shops, Nth Brighton Station, William St Reserve & Brighton P.S.

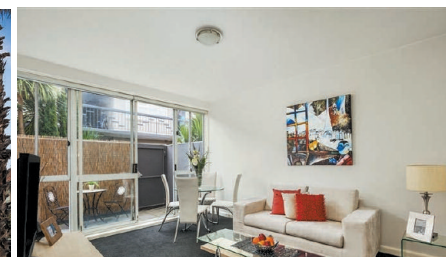
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Auction: Sunday 6th July at 12:30pm
Inspect: Saturday & Sunday 11:30am-12 noon
Guide: \$700,000 - \$770,000
Contact: Joey Eckstein 0419 419 199
Peter Fein 0418 244 444
Office: Caulfield

St Kilda 9525 4166

Elwood

4/130 Glen Huntly Road



Simply the best

Spacious refurbished apartment with a clever floor plan & a spacious courtyard, within walking distance to everything including shops, cafés, beach & transport. Features entrance with security intercom, generous kitchen with s/steel appliances, adjacent open-plan living & dining, big sunny courtyard, sleek bathroom with wall-hung basin & mosaic splash back, large double bedroom with BIR's, European laundry, ample storage & OSP.

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Auction: Sunday 22nd June at 1pm
Inspect: Sat 12-12:30pm & Sun from 12:30pm
Guide: \$340,000 - \$375,000
Contact: Joey Eckstein 0419 419 199
Paul Khait 0422 844 666
Office: St Kilda Beach

St Kilda East

7/12 Melby Avenue



124m2 - House sized living!

This art deco semi-detached apartment is one of a kind. Comprising past period charm throughout, central lounge (could easily be converted into a 2nd bedrm), spacious master bedrm w/BIR's, massive nth-facing courtyard & sheltered porch, 12ft high ceilings, open plan kitchen/dining w/its own access to rear parking & shed, large entry hall, private & secure w/3 entrances, undercover parking w/storage all in a AAA rated street.

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Auction: Sunday 29th June at 11am
Inspect: Saturday 10:45-11:15am
Sunday 11:45-12:15pm
Contact: Martin Fox 0411 168 381
Lucas Butler 0400 350 402
Office: Caulfield

St Kilda East 9531 4111

Caulfield 9528 8888