



Trusted Transitions

Tending to the details of life-changes

✓	Decluttering Checklist
	Old National Geographic Magazines – NO ONE WANTS THEM – NO ONE! Most folks who have collections of these – have many years worth. You can try and donate more current issues to hospitals. Though they are an excellent magazine, there appear to be just too many around.
	Encyclopaedia sets - with the advent of the internet, these old sets are obsolete. Schools do not want them as the information may no longer be current, reuse facilities cannot resell them. They appear to be only recyclable.
	Photographs of scenery. When you are gone, they will be thrown out! They are your memories and mean nothing to those left behind. Keep what maintains the memory ... throw away multiple shots.
	Garbage bag twist ties are a real nuisance. Most folks tend to tie the bags up by hand, and stash away the ties.
	Travel brochures ... if you travel to the same location again, the information is refreshed. With the internet, this information becomes stale very quickly.
	Received Christmas cards – birthday cards – condolence cards – all cards. We never really go back and look at them. Save them for the moment, though after a point in time, they can be recycled.
	Single socks, gloves and mittens – keep them around for a couple of months ... after that make them history!
	Old paid invoices – keep the past year and current year, and shred the rest. Copies of Income tax filings only have to be kept for 7 years.
	Old keys. Do a check on the collection of keys you have. If they don't fit any of your locks, get rid of them. Identify your keys by labelling them. We came across two margarine container of keys, and not one of them was marked. There was no way to tell how old they were or if they were even for the house.
	Little plastic tabs that come on bread – really – these should be banned too!

	Magazines – all types – do you really go back and look for articles? Donate them to your Dr's office, hospitals, and veterinary clinics.
	Used toothbrushes. Yes, a couple are good to have when you need to do some delicate, detailed cleaning, though hanging on to more than 2 or 3 is not necessary.
	Used bars of soap. I cannot think of one good used for these. We tend to think we will somehow make another bar of soap out of them, somehow. Time to get rid of them
	Afghan blankets still in good shape. If you have kept them in a closet for a few years and do not use them, they can be donated to not for profit seniors residences! These wonderfully colourful afghan blankets add a splash of colour to their rooms!
	Shells and stones from trips....they are your memories and mean nothing to those left behind. Do you remember where they are from? Can you display them in a way to keep the memory? If not, they are OK the throw out.
	Put photographs into books as you print them or they will never get sorted. Discard all you do not want. Think about the "scenery" pictures – they tend not to be kept by those left behind.
	Old theatre programs can be mailed back to the theatre with a note about your experience.
	Membership cards or programs from past events, associations, and clubs may be of value to the club for their archives.
	Many schools would gladly accept the history you are providing with old books, uniforms, yearbooks, etc. and would be very happy to have them.
	Were you or a family member in the armed services? The local Legion or Veterans group may be glad to receive memorabilia from your time there.
	Postcards or placemats from restaurants? If the restaurant still exists, send them back with a little note about your great experience. They may even put it up on their wall.