



*a guide to
downsizing*

matthew's

15 Lower Bridge Street
Chester CH1 1RS
T 01244 346226

E sales@matthewsofchester.com
www.matthewsofchester.com



the prospect of moving to a smaller home can be daunting

Some of the reasons for needing to downsize could be:

health problems or changes in mobility

changes in family circumstances

changes in the surrounding community

reduced family size

There are many positives to moving such as:

to be nearer family and friends

reduced running costs of your home

an easier home and garden to maintain so more time to spend on the things you enjoy

selling excess furniture and belongings releasing cash to spend on other things

releasing the equity in your home to make life more comfortable

meeting new people

Many home owners struggle with the dilemma of no longer needing the space they have, but not wanting to give it up either. The prospect of packing up a beloved home with decades of accumulated belongings and all the memories attached can seem overwhelming, particularly as we get older, and this can become the reason for delaying a move.

Handy hints and tips to help you along the journey.

1. Work out exactly how much space you need in your new home, e.g. will you need a spare bedroom for visitors? How big does the kitchen need to be? How much time do you want to spend looking after a garden?
2. Measure your furniture and determine what will fit and if there are items unlikely to fit. Consider selling them to raise funds for new furniture to go into the new home.
3. Determine what will look right in the new house style-wise. Again, if you don't want the new house to look miss-matched, consider selling or donating to a family member.
4. Compare the cost of moving or shipping your furniture, appliances, mattresses, etc. with the cost of replacing them at your new location.
5. Make two lists: one list of the pieces you want to keep and one list of those you plan to get rid of.
6. Plan to do small amounts of clearing and packing over time to avoid exhaustion, panic and frayed tempers!
7. Contact family members and/or friends to see if they want any of the items you do not want to take with you and, if so, how and when they want to come and pick the items up.
8. Decide how you want to dispose of the remaining items, i.e. store, sell, donate, throw away.
9. Develop a step-by-step plan. This could be room by room or type of item (e.g. furniture, clothing, memorabilia, etc.).
10. Downsizing veterans all say the same thing: "when in doubt, toss it out!" The less you have to move, the easier your move will be!

Remember this can be physically and emotionally draining work so be sure to get the support you need and try to stay focused on the positive outcomes of the move. The careful selection of an experienced estate agent is vital to ensure the process goes smoothly and with as little stress as possible.