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A little planning before a move can go a long way. A few spots in the home can easily become clutter catch-all's. Thinking ahead to *how* you will live in the new place can make for an easy transition to living well in your new home.

**Front Hall** – This is an area of constant use, and the one that greets you when you come home. Make an effort to make this area work for you and you'll feel less overwhelmed when you walk in the door, despite any remaining boxes to unpack around the corner.

- If this is your main way in and out, make sure you have enough closet space or hooks on the wall for each person and one or two guests.
- A basket for each person's accessories will also help tame the space
- Designate a place for keys and build the habit of returning them there every time you come in. It can be helpful to have keys out of sight to keep them safe.
- Add seating to make changing footwear easier.
- Place mats by the door to keep loose dirt and gravel from spreading into your home.
- A mirror, piece of art or natural beauty, and adequate lighting will finish the space.

**Laundry Room and Storage Area** - Even though you move, laundry doesn't stop. It won't take long for piles of clothes to accumulate and get in your way if you don't have a laundry process thought through.

- Think about the important steps in your laundry process. Do you throw everything in the dryer or do you like to hang a lot? Do you need a place to pre-treat stains? Do you do a lot of hand-washing?
- Set up space for each important process and the associated tools. Staples include laundry products, drying racks, baskets for sorting and bowls for hand-washing.
- Shelving will be important to store your home maintenance supplies. Measure the space before you move in and if shelves aren't already in place, consider buying those which set up quickly. Having shelving at hand will make it easy to unpack and help you avoid saving boxes to unpack later.



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**Garage** - Did you dream of putting the car in the new garage, but can't even see the floor because of all the boxes of stuff that still need a home?

- Clear out any unwanted items that may have been left behind.
- Measure the space to make sure you have clearance around your vehicle if you're planning on storing it in the garage.
- Create zones in the garage for different kinds of items such as tools, gardening supplies, off-season tires, and sports equipment.
- Install shelving to enable you to put things away. Also consider hanging items on the wall. There are hooks available to keep your tools and garden supplies off the ground, and racks to mount bikes and hold sporting equipment. Look up - sometimes light items can be stored on ceiling mounted racks.
- Don't forget to allow space for garbage, recycling and yard waste.

By planning ahead, you'll make unpacking easier and quickly return to normal living in your new home.