

Options for Evaluating and Disposing of Personal Property

There comes a time, maybe several times in a life, when it is important to take stock of where things stand in your home whether because of an imminent move, potential downsizing or just wanting to slim things down a bit. Here are some options you might find helpful.

1. Getting Items Appraised: For some people, a first step in reviewing their property is to work with an appraiser to determine if anything has value and might be sold. There are many such places. Winston Art Group is “independent of any auction house or dealer.” They “specializes in confidential and objective appraisal services and advice on the acquisition or disposal of all fine and decorative art, jewelry, and collectibles.” They send someone to do an overview and then let you know which possessions warrant a full appraisal, which are decorative items and help sort things out.

2. Professional Organizers or “Declutterers”: There is a whole industry around helping folks to organize and get rid of personal possessions. Marie Kondo being the most famous example. They come in and work with a client to decide what to keep, donate or just discard.

3. Consignment Shops: There are many shops – some are part of non-profit organizations – some are stand-alone that will sell consigned items such as clothes, jewelry, accessories, household items, luggage, etc. Some of these, however, will only accept very high-end items. They may also have specific rules for donations and items accepted that can be difficult to accommodate.

4. Organizations that accept donations: There are many places that seek donations for projects that support important services to the community. They include well-known sites such as:

- A Wider Circle
- Attic to Basement
- Bikes for the World
- Habitat for Humanity

There are many others; go to “Contractors” on the DCV website. Note which have particular needs and/or will limit what can be donated.

5. Salvation Army/Goodwill: These well-known donation centers include stores for shopping and will take many items. Each has a website with information on what they accept, what they won’t take and how the stores work.

6. Packing and Delivering items to Donate or Discard: There are many companies that will come into your home and pack up items to be donated or discard and dispose of them. Two, *College Hunks Hauling Junk and Moving* and *123 Junk* will take items to places like Goodwill and/or Salvation Army rather than just discarding them.