



THE WADE
620 WADE AVENUE

Getting ready to make your move.

Practical advice from home organizer Kim Powley.

START SMALL.

“For a lot of people moving is just overwhelming. You don’t even know where to start. If you break it down into small portions it’s much easier. You can’t say I’m going to do my whole house this week, but you can say: ‘I’m going to take everything out of this kitchen drawer, wipe it out and just put the things back in there I want to keep.’ Or: ‘This weekend I’m going to work on my bedroom closet. Monday, I’ll do my pantry.’ That’s manageable.”

CELEBRATE SUCCESS.

“Start someplace where you can see immediate results, like a linen closet, a bathroom, a laundry room. It’s easy to go through expired medicines and old makeup. It feels good: ‘okay, this isn’t as hard as I thought it was going to be.’ And you get on kind of a roll.”

BE PRACTICAL.

“You need less than you think. You look at what you have and you decide what you need and what you don’t. Say you’re going from a big kitchen in a huge house down to a condo. So, maybe you don’t need seven spatulas. You have to get creative, especially when you think about the storage you’ll have at your new place.”

GET A FRESH PAIR OF EYES.

“Working with someone else makes it easier—that other person doesn’t have the same sentimental attachments you do. It doesn’t have to be an organizer; it can be your best friend, your sister, somebody that can help you make decisions. They can look at it with different eyes. ‘Why are you taking that with you? You haven’t used it since you got it as a wedding present.’ Just having someone say, ‘tell me why you want to keep this,’ you may realize that you really don’t need it.”

HAVE A PLAN FOR LETTING GO.

“You can say, ‘okay kids, we’re getting rid of some furniture; you need to come by the first of next month and pick up what you want because I need out of here.’ Everything else you have an estate sale or donate it. People want to know that their things have value for someone else. Maybe that means a family member or friend, but it could also mean a much-appreciated donation.”

THINK AHEAD.

“When you’re downsizing, it can be hard to translate exactly what it means to move from a 4,000 square foot house into a 2,000 square foot home. Some people who can visualize well use online tools or an app. Typically my clients work with interior designers—they help you combine the things you love with things that reflect your new lifestyle. You may keep your grandfather’s old chest from the Civil War, but you also want that to work with something that’s a little more contemporary. An interior designer can help you translate all that.”

Second homes

Many local groups can make good use of things you no longer have room for.

The Green Chair Project: *furniture*

Lions Club: *eyeglasses*

Raleigh Rescue Mission: *clothing, toys, electronics, furniture, etc.*

SPCA: *towels & linens*

StepUp Ministry: *men’s business clothes*