

When size matters: Downsizing 101

Whatever their reasons, whether to save on heating or simplify home maintenance, folks are downsizing and loving it. But they're asking about the most efficient path to turning smaller spaces into special places. Dad said: "Good luck is 90% good planning." And size matters.

To downsize gracefully and more conveniently, consider your new space. A hard look at basic needs can help make your move-in simple, striking a balance between Spartan and vagabond. Sorting what you have helps you to save by moving only what you'll need.

It may pay to leave behind items you can get once you're there. A good starting point is to identify with sentimental essentials and must-have practical items. Patio furniture can work while you seek downsized furniture, which can be difficult to find because today's showrooms tend to feature large pieces.

When combining design and func-

tion, replace roomfuls from the past with a few well-designed pieces such as nesting tables, cocktail benches and ottomans, which can serve as additional seating.

Drop-leaf dining tables that accommodate 2-4 people most days serve a crowd of 12 on holidays.

Consider drop-surface desks with drawers for their good looks and capacity for "stuff," and dual-purpose pieces such as bookcase headboards. Creative use of mirrors can expand visual space or enhance an



across-the-room view.

If your new home lacks extra bedrooms, a better-quality sleep sofa — 51" or wider" — can offer comfort and durability.

But get one only if necessary, because even the best won't last like a well-built sofa.

Daybeds are a fine idea, too, but they're way too deep for comfortable seating if

they're based on a twin mattress with no backrest in sight. On the other

hand, quality condo and apartment sofas are scaled to fit smaller spaces,

and reputable USA-made brands offer firmer, spring-reinforced seats or down-blend cushions for luxury and comfort. Slipcovers can offer cost-effective, easy seasonal changes in theme.

Don't forget to balance scale with comfort. Don't give up seat depth if you "crash" in your sofa; look for visual and physical space savers with narrow arms and lower backs — they are out there, if hard to find. Select 100% synthetic, durable fabrics with water-cleanup (or open your windows in January after using a solvent cleaner — your choice!).

Space-saving, wall-mounted, articulating lights are affordable and easily installed. Consider dimmers to save watts and add atmosphere — bright for reading, dim for music or quiet moments. Save space with a smaller entertainment center for smaller-than-ever music and video components.

FMI, visit Endicott Home Furnishings, 717 US Route 1, Scarborough, or call 207-883-3264. Visit their Web site at www.endicottthome.com.

Think It *Might*
Be Time
To Refinance
Your
Home Equity
Line?



**10 Yr Fixed
2nd Mortgage
6.651% APR***



*Rates as of 9/1/06 & are subject to change. For example: a 10 year \$25,000 loan at 6.651% would result in 120 monthly payments of \$285.46.

Lisbon Community Federal Credit Union

325 Lisbon St., PO box 878, Lisbon, ME 04250

Phone: 353.4144 Toll free: 877.353.4144

www.lisboncu.org



Where knowledgeable staff can assist you through every project!

HOMEOWNERS!

We will walk you through your project, big or small!

CONTRACTORS!

Looking for Pricing, Service & Availability?

HARDSCAPING SUPPLIES

- Pavers
- Granite
- Natural Stone
- Retaining Walls

LANDSCAPING SUPPLIES

- Loam
- Bulk Mulch
- Gravel
- Crushed Stone
- Stone
- Sand

Products Are In-Stock For You Convenience!

Petro's
ACE Hardware
& LANDSCAPE CENTER

Delivery Available



965 Minot Ave., Auburn, Maine 04210

783-0447 • 783-0433