

How to Declutter Books

HOME
APPEAL
SYSTEM



Sort your books into three categories: Keep, donate, and sell. Banker boxes are small enough to lift when full plus have handles. Ask yourself these questions:



Is it a duplicate?

If you have the same book in an electronic version, decide if you still need the paper version. Many books such as dictionaries, encyclopedias, and reference books have become irrelevant in the Internet age.



Is the material still current and relevant?

Lots of us hold onto old college textbooks and other books we accumulated years ago that are no longer relevant, current, or up-to-date. Now is a good time to discard them.



Am I really going to read it again?

It is difficult to get rid of a book, even if you have read it once and are very unlikely to ever read it again. If you do decide to read it again, could you check it out from the library or an electronic book provider?



Will I ever read this book?

If this a book you received as a gift or you purchased with the intention of reading someday, yet years have gone by and you haven't opened it yet, it's probably a good idea to discard it prior to moving.



Are you keeping the books just for the image?

If you didn't enjoy reading Shakespeare or other "classics" in high school, you probably won't ever read them in the future. Don't keep certain books in your collection just to maintain a perception of status.



Is the book worth as much as I think it is?

There are many apps and websites available to see how much a book is really worth. Most used books are not worth what we think they might be, especially those old college manuals. Unless it is a first-edition, signed copy, it is probably not worth keeping it around.



Am I sentimental about the book or that time in my life?

Some books are life-changing and you may re-read or reference them several times. However, the sentimentality of other books may come from an experience while you were reading the book. Feeling nostalgic about a book may have nothing to do with the book itself and there is no real reason to keep it.

Are there over-laps?



Try sorting your non-fiction books by topic. You will probably discover that you have overlaps in some topics. Decide which books are the best and discard the remainder.

Do I still like this series?



At a younger age, we may have collected book series that we have outgrown but the books still clutter our bookshelves. Is it time to move-on from all those young-adult books series?

Do I have cookbooks I never use?



Many cookbooks were acquired with good intentions but we have never even used one recipe out of them. Could your cookbook collection be reduced by a large percentage?

Do I have a scarcity mentality?



Let go of the "What if I need this in the future" mentality and remember all books are available at the library, on-line, through audio book clubs, or to repurchase if the need ever arises.

Can I keep a books without guilt?



Less is different than none. Identify your favorite books and keep them close. Find freedom in knowing all decisions are coming from you and nobody is forcing them on you.

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