

## Dare To Downsize, by Randy Veraguas

*Tiny monthly articles regarding a move to a smaller place; written to help motivate, educate or simply entertain.*

April: Dare to Trim

How many times do you think you're going to hear, April Showers Bring May Flowers? I hear it too often. So I didn't want to start off this article with such a cliché....oops. Guess I did! HA ha Ok Ok, so I'm not perfect. And neither is any move! What we plan to do is just that. It's a plan. What ends up happening can be something completely unexpected. Let's think about a way to mitigate poorly executing a plan to downsize.

April is National Lawn and Garden Month, so I thought we could focus on "Trimming". Oh no, I'm not concerned with your garden, I'm talking about trimming down your things. After all, this is the tiny article about downsizing. Last month if you read this article, you may have started labeling things. So, you know where your things are and they're all organized and labeled now. **How many do you have?**

How many?? What I am trying to get you to think about is quantity. How many people live in your house? In my house we have three people. My husband, my son and myself live happily under one roof...but we don't have 3 forks, 3 plates and 3 cups. I'm embarrassed to say, we have way too many forks, plates and cups. If we were going to downsize soon, I'd have lots to trim. I'd get rid of the mismatched, chipped, and least popular or never used things. Moving professionals will tell you if you haven't used it in a year, trim it! (Well, I'm using the term TRIM just to stay within the April motto, but you can say, donate it, give it away, throw it away, or sell it. My husband would add, **Burn it!** He loves a good fire. But I digress...

Go ahead, lift your eyes and look around your home. Dare to trim it. Let's start in the kitchen. And I'm not referring to trimming our waist line, although it wouldn't hurt me to put a little more focus there! ;) Trim away those cooking pots and pans. Your kitchen will be smaller and if you're lucky, you're going some place that serves meals 3x a day (hint hint, like ATRIA Marina Place, a senior living community where I work.) Seriously how many times have you used that lobster pot? Are you still carrying trays when you have visitors? Do you still have that old beautiful soup terrine that you never use anymore because it's such a pain to clean? Really?! Think about trimming down other rooms, too. Trim away those pillows that cover your entire bed. Do you really need to move all of them? If you say yes, it's your prerogative, but you're new smaller bedroom will look bigger without all those pillows. Ironically, trimming will help you feel like you have BIGGER place.

I didn't say it'd be easy. Trimming involves work. But keep in mind that April 7<sup>th</sup> is OFFICIALLY No Housework Day! (I would kiss the person who got that passed!) So that means you have 29 days of April's wet weather to trim around your home in preparation for a most successfully executed downsize. However, even if you're not planning a move, trimming is going to give you space- more room to display May's flowers. ☺

*...Is that smoke I smell? "Hey, Glenn!!!"*