



What to declutter before your move

A room by room guide for Washington homeowners, with local resources to donate, recycle, and haul responsibly

ROOM BY ROOM CHECKLIST

Kitchen

- Duplicate appliances you never use
- Expired pantry items and spices
- Mismatched containers without lids
- Dishes and mugs you have not touched
- Gadgets still in the box
- Old cookbooks you never open

Bedroom and closets

- Clothes not worn in 12 or more months
- Shoes that do not fit or hurt
- Old bedding and extra pillows
- Jewelry you never wear
- Books you have already read
- Items under the bed since your last move

Garage and storage

- Broken tools or duplicates
- Sports gear no one uses
- Old paint and chemicals (see WA disposal)
- Holiday decor you skip every year
- Kids toys and bikes outgrown
- Boxes not opened in years

Living room and office

- Old electronics and tangled cables
- DVDs, CDs, VHS tapes
- Furniture that will not fit your next space
- Decorative items you no longer love
- Papers older than 7 years (shred first)
- Printers, monitors, old computers

WHERE TO DONATE IN SKAGIT, WHATCOM AND SNOHOMISH

Habitat for Humanity ReStore

Furniture, appliances, building materials. Burlington and Bellingham locations. Free pickup for large items.

Goodwill of the Olympics and Rainier Region

Clothing, housewares, electronics. Locations in Mount Vernon, Burlington, Sedro Woolley, and Bellingham.

Burlington and Sedro Woolley Food Bank

Non-expired pantry items and canned goods. Drop off during business hours.

Buy Nothing groups on Facebook

Hyperlocal gifting groups for every neighborhood in Skagit and Whatcom County. Great for furniture and kids items.

WASHINGTON STATE DISPOSAL RULES

Electronics (TVs, computers, monitors) cannot go in the trash in Washington. Drop them off free at any Best Buy or visit ecycleWashington.org for certified drop off sites near you.

Mattresses: Washington law requires retailers to take back old mattresses when delivering a new one. You can also drop off at Skagit or Whatcom County transfer stations for a small fee.

Hazardous waste (paint, chemicals, motor oil): Skagit County holds free household hazardous waste drop off events throughout the year. Visit skagitcounty.net for dates.

Appliances with freon (fridges, AC units) require special handling. Call your local transfer station before dropping off.

PRO TIPS BEFORE MOVING DAY

- **Start decluttering 6 to 8 weeks out.** The week before your move is for packing, not deciding what to keep.
- **The one year rule works.** If you haven't touched it in 12 months, it's not coming with you. Be honest.
- **Take photos of sentimental items you can't keep.** You get the memory without the box.
- **Start with the room you care about least.** Momentum builds when you're not emotionally attached.

Neon Giant Moving and Junk Removal

Skagit, Whatcom, Snohomish and King Counties

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