
PRESS

TALL ORDER

by Jenny Stanley



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Whether you're an empty nester or a successful single, moving to a high-rise locale has its advantages: minimal commutes, shopping galore, less maintenance and incredible views. But an obvious– and somewhat liberating– challenge is downsizing your goods from a large estate to a smaller living space, then coordinating new storage schemes. Estates West Magazine consulted **John Trosko**, professional organizing expert and president of OrganizingLA, for tips on tackling these tasks. “High-rise living has definitely come into vogue and so has space and storage planning,” Trosko says. “But the price can be big, even for a small space.” Even so, he says that homeowners must learn to leave memories and larger furniture behind in favor of “straightforward simplicity.”

1. MAXIMIZE YOUR DOWNSIZE

Though reducing your number of belongings is a difficult task, it's a must. First, take inventory of every single item, then let go of things that don't have a specific purpose. “In a small space, everything kept should serve an important capacity,” Trosko says. Reconsider hobbies that are only occasionally enjoyed; utilize climate controlled outside storage facilities for seasonal items, décor and luggage; and donate unwanted items to local charities. “After you've pruned your possessions, your storage should be organized into four categories: everyday accessible, exhibit, conceal and long-term,” he says.

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For more information and tips on getting organized, visit www.organizingla.com.

2. VIEW FINDER

"For the past three decades, the theory on space planning included heavy, uptight cabinetry and bookshelves and storage from floor to ceiling," Trosko says. "Now storage in a high-rise space needs to be gently built around the view, with creature comforts hidden from sight, still within easy reach." He recommends consulting an architect, designer or professional organizing expert for custom storage solutions that suit your home's specs. Also, seek out storage pieces that can serve multiple functions, like the Madera (above, \$1,700), which provides storage access from either side and divides one room into two. (*Room & Board, 800-301-9720, www.roomandboard.com.*)

3. BEST BET

"Quality baskets, hangars, containers and cabinetry communicate character and elegance," Trosko says. In other words, storage accessories can work hard to keep your spaces both tidy and stylish. Hung up on the natural look? Then consider tucking these custom wood (\$96 for 24 pieces) and fabric-padded hangers (\$120 for 12 pieces) into your lineup. (*Henry Hanger Company of America, 800-884-3679, www.henryhanger.com*) The Itrecci Woven leather basket (\$497) also weaves an earthy feel into your décor, and it fits almost anywhere and goes with almost any style. (*Art et Maison, 212-226-3665, www.artetmaison.com*). For a softer, more colorful twist, Jane Marvel Zip Boxes (\$146 for the set) can brighten up a niche while stowing belongings safely. (*See Jane Work, 877-400-5263, www.seejanework.com.*)

