

GLOBAL CATEGORIES FOR STUFF

There are some global categories of things that don't require further specification. Those are:

- TRASH
- RECYCLE (as in 'green' or sustainable recycling)
- RETURN TO OTHERS (soon!)
- GIVE AWAY (soon!)
 - Thrift store/Shelter
 - Specific people or organizations
 - Freecycle or out at the curb with a sign
- SELL (only things that have significant value and easy-to-identify markets)
- SENTIMENTALAND (refer to glossary for complete definition)
- THE FENCE (refer to glossary for complete definition)

For items that you're keeping that will be containerized and stored, here are a few categories to get you started. Refer to your notebook for any additional categories that you've already identified in any of these spaces and add to the list as needed.

Artwork – intact or damaged, two- and three-dimensional

Automobile – all things to do with your cars, motor oil, windscreen fluid, tires, etc.

Bicycles, tricycles, unicycles, roller blades, skateboards, pogo sticks, stilts, etc.

Books – in or out of boxes, current or historic or schoolbooks, etc., ultimately only books that you're keeping

Camping Gear

Cleaning Supplies – products opened and being used, as well as brooms, dustpans, buckets, mops, etc.

Clothing, Children's Outgrown

Clothing, 'Fat'

Clothing, 'Skinny'

Clothing, Seasonal – these should be separated by season as well as owner/wearer

Collections – from Polly Pocket to Barbie to Hummels and stamps

Electronics, Computer – surplus computer parts, printers, monitors, etc.

Electronics, Other – surplus electronics, i.e. Walkmans, stereo components, TVs, adding machines, calculators, etc.

Fasteners – should always be stored near tools, these include nuts, bolts, screws, nails, etc.

Furniture – current and no longer used, intact and broken, missing parts, torn, etc.

Games & Toys – board games, jigsaw puzzles, children's toys, etc.

Hobby Supplies – from scrapbooking, knitting/crocheting, model cars, planes or trains, etc.

Holiday Decorations – these should be further separated by individual holiday

Inherited things – in or out of any containers they arrived in

Laundry – as in dirty laundry because you do laundry in this space

Lawn & Landscaping – summer yard tools like hoses, rakes, shovels, chainsaws, etc.

Media – LPs, cassette tapes, 8-Track tapes, 78's, 45's, VHS tapes, DVDs, CDs, floppy disks, etc.

Newspapers – either current or old, i.e. the day Kennedy was assassinated, your child's birth, the moon landing, etc.

Office Supplies

Original cartons for equipment – just in case we have to return them!

Paint & Painting Supplies – current and historic, including drop cloths, rollers, brushes, etc.

Pantry items – foods, dry goods, paper products

Periodicals – either current or old, i.e. National Geographic, Life, Look, etc.

Photographs – in boxes, albums, loose

Seasonal Lifestyle – grills, lawn chairs, cushions, etc.

Seasonal Pastime Supplies – pool stuff, croquet equipment, lawn furniture, cushions, etc.

Sports Equipment – all seasons, from Frisbees to ice skates, further separated by sport

Surplus Goods – bulk cleaning supplies (unopened), light bulbs, etc.

Surplus Kitchen Equipment – appliances, pots and pans, dishes, silverware, etc.

Surplus China & Dishes – including crystal, stemware, etc.

Surplus Planting Supplies – for houseplants rather than gardening, including planters and vases

Tools, Cold Weather – snow shovels, scrapers, ice melt products, etc.

Tools, All Season – ladders, saws, drills, hammers, etc.

Financial Records – Supporting documentation for tax returns, old bank statements, etc. are fine in plastic, water-resistant containers. These are typically discarded after seven years, or upon advice from an accountant/tax professional. Documents that cannot be replaced or would be necessary in an emergency (insurance policies, wills, deeds, titles) should be stored in either a safe deposit box at a bank (make sure there are multiple keys, with clearly noted and identified locations) or a fireproof, waterproof safe on the main level of the house.