

Can't decide if you should move or remodel?

New year, new home!

HOSTED BY  **MICHELLE
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REALTOR®

Join us for a sip & learn on February 8th at 6pm in Lafayette to learn about the pros and cons of choosing to buy vs. renovate in Lamorinda.

Topics will include:

- Should you renovate your home or buy something new?
- How to plan a successful renovation and avoid pitfalls
- Popular finishes
- Construction costs and staying on budget
- What to look for when selecting a contractor

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The sentimental person's guide for letting go of belongings

By Jennifer Raftis, CPO

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Another hurdle to getting rid of things is the feeling that we want to make sure they go to a good home. If we know somebody will appreciate them and the items are not being trashed, it can help us let them go. I would recommend spending some time doing the research as to where you want your items to go. What charities are close to your heart? Have you already asked your family and friends if they would like any of the items?

Once you have decided to let items go, I recommend taking them out of your house as soon as possible. The sooner you let things go the sooner you will see progress. I do not recommend leaving those boxes in your car or your house as you might be tempted to go back through them. It's kind of like ripping off a Band-Aid – if you go slowly, you prolong the pain; if you do it fast, you'll get it over with.

Kids' memorabilia can be a very difficult category for many people. I recommend only keeping a few items from grade

school, junior high, high school and college for each child. You could create a memory book or box for each child with photographs of all of their accomplishments.

If your kids are grown and they do not have interest in keeping their old toys, are you hanging on to them for the day you may have grandkids? Even if you do have ample space to store these items, will they last over time to be safe enough, clean enough, and interesting enough for your grandkids? I know some people like the nostalgic value of old toys, but again these nostalgic items can be shown in a picture album to your grandkids instead of holding on to all of the actual toys.

For many people, giving up items that have sentimental value is always going to be challenging. Sadly, we can't hold on to everything. The more we hold on to from the past, the less meaningful items from our present can come into our lives.

I hope everyone has a very happy New Year and that you enjoyed spending time with your loved ones over the holidays.

Professional Organizer, Jennifer Raftis, CPO® founded Efficiency Matters, LLC to help you with all of your organizing needs for your home and business. She is a Certified Professional Organizer and an active board member with NAPO, National Association of Productivity and Organizing Professionals.

She is also an independent representative for The Container Store and has expertise in designing closets, garages, pantries, playrooms and more. In addition, she is a Corporate Organizing and Productivity Consultant and has worked with Fortune 500 companies across the U.S. Another large part of her business is move management especially working with seniors who are downsizing. She and her husband have lived in Moraga for 30 years, raising 3 kids and working countless volunteer hours with many local non-profit organizations and schools. Jennifer@efficiencymattersllc.com, 925-698-3756
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