Moving and renting

Moving can be a stressful and busy time. Luckily, there are many things you can do to reduce waste and stress while moving. There are also many things you can do to spruce up a space you are renting without accumulating a lot of things.

Prevent waste while moving

Take the following steps to prevent waste while moving:

- Give yourself enough time to sort through your things, dividing them into "keep" and "get rid of" categories.
- For things you are getting rid of, donate or sell them if they are in good condition and properly dispose of the rest (search the Green Disposal Guide at **hennepin.us/green-disposal-guide** to find options).
- When packing, try to find boxes and packing materials from your community by posting on online neighborhood or sharing sites, checking with local stores, and saving up boxes you get from deliveries. Or look into rental options for durable plastic boxes from companies such as U-Haul, Blue Box, Banana Box or Frog Box. Use soft items like pillows, blankets, and towels as packing materials.

- Clearly label boxes with what room they will go in and an inventory of what's packed inside. Keep fragile items safe by packing them in sturdy boxes and wrapping them with soft packing materials. Pack an "open first" box with essentials for the first few days to avoid having to buy duplicates.
- When unpacking, give away your moving boxes and supplies and properly dispose of any waste left behind. This includes bringing any hazardous waste to a drop-off facility or collection event.
- Give yourself time to settle into your new place to make the best decision about additional items you need. Visit local reuse retailers or check online sale or sharing sites to find new-to-you items for your home. Visit Choose to Reuse at **hennepin.us/choosetoreuse** to find local reuse retailers.

Enhancing your space in rentals

If you are renting a home or apartment, you probably want to personalize the space. But if your living situation is temporary, investing in items specific to that space could be a waste of time, money, and resources.

The rise of social media and lifestyle influencers can mean increased pressure to have perfectly coordinated interior design, even if you are still in college or moving to your first adult home. Try to let go of the idea of meeting all the latest trends with cheap, poorly made items and instead focus on a few well-made items you love.

To fill in the rest of the space and make it your own, think about ways you can repurpose items you already have or find secondhand or natural décor. A few do-it-yourself (DIY) ideas:

- **Thrift store oddities:** You can find lots of great treasures at the thrift store to add highlights to your space. This is a great option if you like decorative items and knickknacks but don't want to buy new.
- **Plants:** Liven up your space with live plants! Not only do plants add lovely greenery, they also help clean the air you breathe. Get cuttings from your green-thumbed friends or family or look for people giving away and selling plants online.
- **Dried flowers/leaves/branches:** Create a statement centerpiece for a counter or table using natural items. Make sure you collect these items legally and sustainably.
- **Rugs and throws:** Getting a different rug for your room or a new blanket for the chair or couch are quick ways to change up your space and add color. These are often easy to find secondhand.
- **Lighting:** The way you light a space can totally change the ambience. Vintage pieces or fixed-up thrift store finds are better options for the environment than buying a flimsy new lamp. If you have an existing lamp that stopped working, bring it to a Fix-It Clinic before you toss it. Lamps are easy to fix, and you can switch up lampshades to make it new again.