



MOVING GUIDE FOR SENIORS

Simplify your move & right size your space





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*Congratulations on reaching this exciting chapter in your life!
Moving to a retirement community marks the beginning of
a fulfilling new adventure.*

You've worked hard to get here, and now it's time to focus on the freedom, comfort, and enriching experiences that await you. However, we understand that moving can feel overwhelming, especially when you're unsure where to begin. That's where this comprehensive guide comes in. It's designed to walk you through each step, making your transition as smooth as possible.

The Perks of Senior Living Communities

Forget everything you thought you knew about senior living being drab and pedestrian. Times have changed, as has the way we live in our later years! At Clark, we've designed living options that reflect our active, independent, and thriving community.

Clark is more than just a place to live—it's where neighbors turn into lifelong friends. We eschew a one-size-fits-all approach to provide an environment where no two days are the same. Whether you enjoy splashing around in a water aerobics class, belting out tunes in the choir, or taking a peaceful stroll along our nature trails, there is something for everyone.





The Freedom to Choose

Clark's independent living homes provide the perfect blend of independence and ease. For those transitioning from a large house and considering something more size-appropriate, Clark offers a maintenance-free lifestyle with added perks that make every day feel like a reward.

- Say goodbye to mowing the lawn, shoveling snow, or fixing things around the house.
- Enjoy luxury amenities, from pools and salons to on-site restaurants.
- Marvel at nature with scenic walking paths and various outdoor activities.
- Stay fit in our fully equipped fitness center.
- All Clark properties are pet-friendly, so your furry companion is welcome.

Whether you're drawn to the classic, bustling atmosphere of Clark at Franklin or the serene, nature-filled setting of Clark at Keller Lake, this is about treating yourself after years of hard work and embracing a life where comfort comes first.



Clark at Franklin: **CLASSIC & CONVENIENT**

Clark at Franklin is your ideal spot if you prefer to be in the heart of the action. Located just minutes from downtown Grand Rapids, Franklin offers easy access to city amenities while still providing the comfort and tranquility of home.

- **Spacious Apartments:** With one- and two-bedroom apartments available, Franklin's living spaces are designed to feel open and airy, perfect for those who want plenty of room to entertain or relax.
- **Townhouses:** Need a little more space? Our townhomes at Franklin offer multiple bedrooms, an attached garage, and a private outdoor area, perfect for gardening or enjoying the fresh air.
- **Lively Community Vibe:** Franklin is all about connection. With communal spaces like the café, chapel, and auditorium, you'll always have a place to meet neighbors, join a group activity, or simply enjoy a coffee with friends.
- **Close to Everything:** With shopping, dining, and healthcare just a short drive away in Grand Rapids, Franklin puts convenience at your doorstep.



Clark at Keller Lake: **SERENE AND SCENIC**

Looking for a peaceful retreat surrounded by nature? Clark at Keller Lake offers a more tranquil, nature-focused lifestyle.

- **Lakeside Living:** Many of Keller Lake's apartments and townhomes offer lake views, allowing you to wake up to a gorgeous vista every day. Enjoy morning walks by the water or simply relax on your patio and with friends.
- **Modern Apartments:** Open-plan spaces with large windows that let in copious natural light.
- **Expansive Townhomes:** Keller Lake's Townhomes offer multiple bedrooms, attached garages, and large living spaces—all within a stone's throw of the lake.
- **Nature Trails and Outdoor Activities:** This community is built around embracing the natural surroundings. Residents love spending afternoons walking, barbecuing, and entertaining with their nearest and dearest.



Decorating Your New Home

Whether you select Franklin or Keller Lake, your home will be ready for you to make it your own. Both communities offer customizable floor plans and flexible decorating options, so you can settle in just as you would in any new home.

BRING YOUR STYLE

Clark offers the perfect canvas to show off your style. Whether you prefer minimalist, vibrant, or traditional, your new space is ready for your personal touch. Want a fresh coat of paint or that statement furniture piece you've been eyeing? Go for it!

COMFORT, YOUR WAY

Imagine starting your day exactly how you like it—with a quiet espresso in a cozy corner or soaking up some sunshine on your patio. Your new home is where comfort meets flexibility, letting you design your day-to-day life just as you've always wanted.



Tips for Moving

The prospect of moving to a new home can feel like a mountain to climb—especially if you’ve been settled for many years. That’s why we recommend breaking it down into bite-sized steps to avoid unnecessary stress and make the whole process more manageable.

START EARLY

While moving isn’t at the top of anyone’s ‘fun’ list, starting the process ahead of time with a steady schedule allows you to relive cherished memories and maybe even make a few new ones along the way. This might even be a great excuse to invite family or friends around to help you sort through things.

MAKE A PLAN

Moving is a significant life event. Without a plan, it can feel even more daunting. Here are

some ways Clark residents made the move a near-painless experience!

- 1. Take a moment to reflect.** Before jumping straight into logistics, consider what this move means to you. What items are truly meaningful and worth keeping for this new chapter? By honoring your life’s story and deciding how it will continue in your new space, you can proceed with clarity and purpose.
- 2. Create a realistic schedule.** Instead of trying to do everything simultaneously, try tackling one room or task at a time. Prioritize what needs to be done first—like booking movers or notifying family—and let smaller tasks fall into place as you go.
- 3. Build in milestones.** Turning your plan into a checklist can give you a sense of accomplishment as you progress. Celebrate small wins before rushing to the next job straight away. Remember, every victory is a step closer to settling into your new home!



Right Size Your Life

Joining the Clark community is an opportunity to hold on to the things you truly cherish—the gifts and valuables that evoke the fondest memories—and to give them pride of place in your new home. This doesn't mean you need to hold a fire sale for everything else or throw everything away!

Right-sizing is all about making your life and your effects more manageable. Everything in your new home should have its place, free from clutter and without the need for constant maintenance.

Here are some ways to lighten your load as you embark on your new journey:

GO DIGITAL

Pictures, letters, and paperwork can be converted into digital formats. This will save space, prevent accidental loss, and make

sharing memories with loved ones even more straightforward.

SHARE THE LOVE

Imagine the joy of passing along meaningful items to friends or family while you can still enjoy their reactions firsthand. It's a beautiful way to keep your legacy alive.

GET CREATIVE

Why leave those sentimental items in a box? Turn them into something you can enjoy daily. Frame them, transform fabrics into a cozy quilt, or create a scrapbook that tells your story. You can start these projects before your move or pack everything into a special box to work on once you're settled.

DONATE OR SELL

There will be some items you might not have seen in years! There may also be things you have no use for anymore. If that is the case, contact your local charity. Many organizations will find a good home for your unwanted effects. Books and art can be donated to Clark. Alternatively, you can always sell items on Facebook Marketplace or eBay.



Choosing Your Moving Company

While moving is challenging, you do have options! If you've got help from family and friends, that's great. If you need a more professional touch and want to leave the heavy lifting to someone else, Clark can recommend moving companies—but feel free to use any movers you trust. The important part? Make it as easy on yourself as possible.

PACKING AND UNPACKING LIKE A PRO

Pack a 'first-day essentials' bag.

It is like packing for a weekend getaway. Toss in a few comfy clothes, your favorite book, medications, and anything else you'll want immediately. That way, you won't be digging through boxes when all you want to do is relax.

Label with a purpose.

Avoid confusion by labeling boxes for the room they're heading to (not the room they left!). Bonus points if you map out the layout and number the rooms—it makes it easy for you and the movers!

Wrap it up smart.

Forget the fancy packing supplies—towels, blankets, and even those grocery bags you've been keeping are perfect for keeping your breakables safe.

TIME TO CELEBRATE!

The best part begins once you've moved in! Whether you prefer a quiet moment to contemplate your new surroundings or popping the champagne with loved ones, this is your time to congratulate yourself on a job well done.



Ready to begin your journey with Clark?

Clark has flexible options for independent living, with our sought-after townhomes and apartments at Franklin and Keller Lake. Call us to find out availability, schedule a tour and join our waitlist at **616-278-6520** or email us at **marketing@clarkretirement.org**. We're here to help every step of the way, so don't hesitate to contact us.



Clark is a leading senior living community in Grand Rapids, Michigan offering a range of living options and services including assisted living, independent living, memory care, skilled nursing and respite care.

Clark at Franklin

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