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## Patch It Up or Pack It Up?

### Remodeling vs. Moving

When your home no longer accommodates your lifestyle, you might find yourself left with the tough choice of renovating or relocating. While remodeling lets you tailor your space to your liking, moving can offer more choices, better opportunities and lasting advantages. Here's why packing it up might be the right move for you.

### Every Home Has Boundaries

Whether you need new flooring, an updated kitchen or a room addition, it's important to understand your home's limitations. Consulting with a professional contractor will reveal what the physical structure can tolerate. You may discover some renovations simply aren't possible.

### Cost Savings and Predictability

Home renovations often come with some unexpected expenses and delays, which can quickly chip away at your budget. Moving allows for more reliable financial planning since you know the purchase price of a new home upfront, along with associated costs like closing fees and hiring movers.

### Meeting Your Needs Immediately

Depending on the size and complexity of the project, remodeling can take months or even years to complete. Moving into a new home, however, will provide an immediate solution to your space

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and lifestyle needs.

### **Access to the Community and Amenities**

Sometimes the constraints of a property extend beyond its walls. If your current location no longer aligns with your goals, such as closer proximity to amenities or a shorter commute to work, relocating can put you right where you want to be.

### **Less Stress and Disruption**

With noise, dust and contractors going in and out of your home, living through a renovation can be stressful and inconvenient. Moving allows you to avoid these disruptions entirely.



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## **Post-Holiday Winter Decor**

Just because the holidays are over doesn't mean you can't keep your home's festive vibe alive. With a few simple touches, you can maintain that joyous, cozy feeling all winter long.

**Incorporate a winter color palette.** Deep browns and earthy greens echo the timeless beauty of evergreen trees, bringing a little bit of nature indoors. Snowy whites and warm, glistening golds create a calming effect similar to the feeling of serenity that accompanies a winter landscape.

**Repurpose your holiday decorations.** Soft twinkle lights, winter-scented candles, fresh pine cones, and rustic logs alongside an electric, gas or wood-burning fireplace bring a welcoming, comfortable feeling to your home.

**Layer in rich textures.** Flannel, faux fur and wool throw blankets add visual appeal and warmth to your design aesthetic. Plaid or cable-knit pillows create inviting focal points and bring depth to your decor.

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## **Grand Designs for Modest Kitchens**

Small kitchens can make a big statement. If your kitchen's square footage is limited, consider these creative hacks and functional ideas to give it a larger presence.

**Create the illusion of space with color and design elements that amplify light and emphasize height.** A monochromatic color scheme, along with lighter wood and hardware, can give your kitchen a bigger appearance. Choosing a darker color for countertops paired with brighter cabinets and walls can draw the eye upward. Add even more height with vertical elements like striped wallpaper or wood planks. Mirrored accents can reflect light and help create a brighter, broader perspective.

**Maximize functionality with smart design and storage solutions.** Reduce shadows and open up counter space by swapping some upper cabinets for open shelving. Whether you have an island or breakfast bar with open cabinetry, use decorative baskets or containers to add valuable storage. If

there's no island or bar but you have floor space to spare, consider purchasing a kitchen cart for extra storage.

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## Clean Grout the Right Way

Grout got you down? If grungy grout is making your tiles look like they've lost their luster, maybe it's time to scrub away the grime.

- Start by giving your grout a good scrub using just **hot water** and a sturdy brush.
- For more difficult stains, make a paste using **2 parts baking soda and 1 part hydrogen peroxide**. Let it sit on grout lines for 10 to 15 minutes, then rinse away the paste with water and a gentle brush.
- If the grout is still dingy, spray the affected area with a mixture of **1 part bleach and 10 parts water**. After 5 minutes, wipe away the residue with a brush or sponge.

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## Tex-Mex Migas

### Ingredients

4 corn tortillas  
3 Tbsp. avocado oil  
1 jalapeno pepper, finely diced  
1 small red bell pepper, diced  
1 small yellow onion, diced  
5 eggs, beaten  
½ tsp. salt  
¼ tsp. pepper  
½ cup shredded Monterey Jack cheese  
½ cup cherry tomatoes, halved  
½ avocado, diced  
Fresh cilantro

### Directions

Cut tortillas into 1-inch squares. Heat oil in a large skillet over medium-high. Add tortilla squares and lightly fry for 4–5 minutes or until crispy, flipping occasionally. Remove from pan and set on a paper towel to absorb excess oil.

Add peppers and onion to skillet and cook for 5 minutes. Turn heat to medium-low and add eggs, salt and pepper. Stir to scramble, cooking 2–3 minutes or until eggs are set.



Remove from heat and stir in fried tortillas. Top with cheese, tomatoes, avocado, and cilantro. Serve warm.

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