10 STEPS TO A SAFER, HEALTHIER AND MORE COMFORTABLE HOME

1. Keep your bathroom clean and working
   - Plumbing checked for leaks and repaired.
   - Toilets, tubs, showers, and sinks cleared and ready to use.
   - Expired medications, make-up, creams, lotions, and sunscreen thrown out.

2. Clear your stove
   - Paper, cloth, and other fire hazards cleared from cooking area.
   - Stove checked for electrical faults or gas leaks.

3. Keep food safe
   - Refrigerator and freezer in proper working order.
   - Counters and dishes cleaned.
   - Outdated and spoiled food discarded.
   - Proper bins for food waste disposal.

4. Reduce the clutter
   - Stacks of boxes lowered and safely stored.
   - Weight of items in boxes reduced.
   - Clutter removed from doorways, stairways, windows, and main living areas.

5. Avoid the use of extension cords and replace damaged cords
   - Electrical cords checked for damages.
   - Refrigerators, stoves, toasters, microwaves, and space heaters plugged directly into wall outlets.

6. Remove your garbage regularly
   - Proper bins for food waste disposal.
   - Clear sink for dish washing or dishwasher in working order.
   - Furniture, carpet, and other sensitive areas checked for pests.

7. Clear your heater by at least one metre
   - One metre (3 ft) distance between all heat sources and anything that can burn.

8. Clear hallways and exits
   - Stairs and railings cleared of all items.
   - Two exits into your home are clear and accessible.
   - One metre (3 ft) pathway cleared throughout your home, including hallways.

9. Care for your pets
   - Clear access for pets to litter box or outdoor area.
   - Proper bins for pet waste disposal.

10. Make sure you have working smoke alarms
    - Alarms tested.
    - Batteries replaced.

An initiative of the Wellington Guelph Hoarding Network
www.wghoardingresponse.ca

Funded by: Ontario Trillium Foundation, Fondation Trillium de l’Ontario, Ontario