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# *"The secret of getting ahead is getting started"*

~Mark Twain



As someone who continuously helps families navigate moving transitions, I'm here to help you make sense of one of the biggest decisions in homeownership: deciding whether to downsize, upsize, or rightsize. The best move depends on your lifestyle, future plans, and what feels right for your family.

### What Do These Moves Mean?

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- **Downsizing** means moving to a smaller home to simplify life, reduce costs, or make use of your equity.
- **Upsizing** means choosing a larger home when you need more space for family, work, or storage.
- **Rightsizing** is about finding the home that truly fits your current needs, whether that's more space, less space, or a better location.

### When to Downsize

You might want to downsize if you have rooms you no longer use, if home maintenance feels like too much, or if you're looking for a way to lower expenses as you approach retirement. Many people also downsize to free up time and energy for other priorities.

### When Upsizing Makes Sense

A larger home can be a smart move if you're feeling cramped, need a dedicated workspace, want more storage, or are looking for a yard where kids or pets can play. Upsizing is also a great option when you're planning for long-term needs.

### The Case for Rightsizing

Rightsizing is about matching your home to your lifestyle. Maybe that means a home closer to work or school, a layout that works for aging parents, or a neighborhood that better fits your daily routine. The goal is to find a home that helps you live comfortably today and in the years ahead.

### Ready to Explore?

If you're starting to think about a change, I'm here to help! Let's talk about what matters most to you and what kind of home will help you get there!



# BERRY TRIFLE

## Ingredients

### Berries

- 1 pint blueberries
- 1 pint strawberries, hulled and cut into thick slices
- 2 pint raspberries
- 1 lemon, juiced
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1 1/2 teaspoons cornstarch

### Lemon Cream

- 1 quart whipping cream
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 (11-ounce) jar lemon curd
- 1 store bought pound cake, sliced 1/2-inch thick

## Directions

1. Place the berries into a large bowl and sprinkle with half of the lemon juice. Lightly toss.

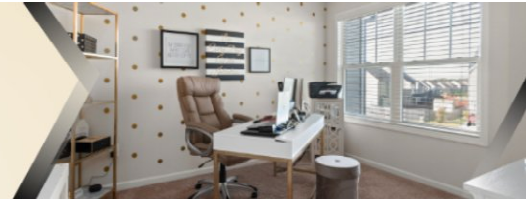
2. Combine the berries, sugar, cornstarch and remaining lemon juice in a saucepan over medium-high heat. Bring to a simmer and cook just until the berries begin to break down and give up their juices, about 3 minutes. Take the berries off the heat and let cool; the mixture should thicken up as it cools.

3. In a clean bowl, whip the cream with the sugar and the vanilla to soft peaks. Put the lemon curd into a second bowl and stir in a little of the whipped cream to loosen it. Then fold in the rest of the cream.

4. To assemble the trifle, spoon a layer of the lemon cream into a large glass bowl. Add a layer of pound cake, breaking the slices into pieces that fit. Then soak the cake with a layer of berries and their juices. Keep going to make 3 or 4 more layers, depending on the size of the bowl, finishing with a layer of lemon cream. Cover and refrigerate until ready to serve.

FoodNetwork

## HOME OFFICE MADE EASY



Does your dining table double as a homework station and a Zoom background?

You're not alone! As your local real estate expert, I know many families today need a home office that does double duty. It should be a place where adults can work from home and kids can focus on homework or creative projects. A well-designed family office can make daily life smoother, and it's a feature that often stands out when it's time to sell. Here are some ideas to help you create a space that fits your family's needs.

### Define Your Space

Start by deciding where your office will go. A spare bedroom or finished basement can work beautifully. With the right setup, even a corner of your living area can become a productive zone. The key is to carve out an area that feels like a dedicated workspace while still blending with your home's style.

### Make It Functional and Family-Friendly

When designing a shared office, focus on creating a space that is comfortable, practical, and welcoming. Choose furniture that is durable and easy to clean, with plenty of storage for both office supplies and schoolwork. Built-in desks, adjustable chairs, and shelves or cabinets can help keep things organized and support a range of activities.

### Choose a Layout That Fits

The best layout depends on how your family will use the space. Here are a few ideas:

- Parallel desks let kids and adults work side by side without getting in each other's way.
- L-shaped or U-shaped setups can create separate zones within one room.
- Multiple small workstations offer flexibility as needs change over time.
- If possible, consider adding a standing or adjustable desk to promote movement and support wellness throughout the day.

### Focus on Lighting and Storage

Good lighting helps everyone stay focused. A combination of natural light, task lamps, and overhead fixtures works well. Storage is just as important. Labeled bins, file drawers, and shelves can help keep school papers, art supplies, and office materials in order.

If you are thinking about creating a family home office or searching for a home with the perfect space, I am happy to help. Let's connect to explore options that fit your needs and add long-term value to your home.

Drury Designs | Tips for Designing a Home Office



If your property is currently listed with a real estate broker, please disregard. It is not our intention to solicit the offerings of other real estate brokers. We are happy to work with them and cooperate fully.

