



When couples divorce, they have to decide who gets the furniture and other household items.

You can use lawyers to help divide these things. Or you can do it yourselves and save a lot of money.

Here are two ways to divide your belongings:

## List, appraise, and pick

List every item of value in your household – whether it’s community property or not. If possible, do this before you move anything.

*You can use page 2 of this form to make your list.*

Make sure things you agree should stay together (like a bedroom set) are grouped on your list as one single item.

Then, hire an appraiser you both agree on. *Before* the appraiser arrives, agree to accept the appraiser’s values.

Then, toss a coin to see who starts. Take turns saying which item you want from the list. Once you or your spouse reaches half of the value of the list, the remaining items go to the other spouse.

## Two-pile system

You and your spouse can also divide the property into what you agree are two “piles” of equal value. Then, flip a coin. Whoever wins, picks the pile they want.

There may be some items that cannot go into the pile because you do not agree on the value. But you can use this system for all the items you do agree on. Then, find another way of dealing with the other items later.

## Tips...

- **Wedding gifts** – The law says you each own half of the wedding gifts. But many couples agree to keep the gifts that were given by that spouse’s family or friends.
- **Photos** – Divide them up according to your preference. If you both want the same photo, make copies and share the cost.
- **Children’s things** – It’s best to think of the children’s furniture, toys, bicycles, camping equipment, etc., as *theirs*. The children’s things should stay with the parent who has custody of the children. The law says you must not charge the other parent for the value of those items.
- **About Appraisers** – Appraisers usually charge between \$250–\$600. You can share the cost, or just one of you can pay. Or you can appraise the items yourself by searching for prices of similar items on the Internet or in the newspaper. (The value is what you could buy or sell it for *now* – *not* the cost to replace it.)

## Stuck?

If you are having problems dividing some of the items, you can:

- Ask an appraiser to suggest an equal division of the property.
- Agree to donate the item to Goodwill or give it to one of the children, or
- If you already separated, you can agree to each keep what you now have.

## Avoid problems!

Agree on the method you will use *before* you begin. If any of your items are worth a lot of money, check with your lawyer first.

Item Number	Item	Notes, if needed	Current Value (What you could buy or sell it for)	Who keeps? Husband or Wife
<b>Kitchen</b>				
	Kitchen table and chairs			<input type="checkbox"/> H <input type="checkbox"/> W
	Cooking utensils			<input type="checkbox"/> H <input type="checkbox"/> W
	Dishes			<input type="checkbox"/> H <input type="checkbox"/> W
	Cutlery			<input type="checkbox"/> H <input type="checkbox"/> W
	Glasses			<input type="checkbox"/> H <input type="checkbox"/> W
	Refrigerator			<input type="checkbox"/> H <input type="checkbox"/> W
	Microwave			<input type="checkbox"/> H <input type="checkbox"/> W
	Dishwasher			<input type="checkbox"/> H <input type="checkbox"/> W
	Stove/oven			<input type="checkbox"/> H <input type="checkbox"/> W
	Housekeeping items (vacuum, broom...)			<input type="checkbox"/> H <input type="checkbox"/> W
	Washer/dryer			<input type="checkbox"/> H <input type="checkbox"/> W
	Other (describe)			<input type="checkbox"/> H <input type="checkbox"/> W
<b>Dining Room</b>				
	Dining room table and chairs			<input type="checkbox"/> H <input type="checkbox"/> W
	Other dining room furniture			<input type="checkbox"/> H <input type="checkbox"/> W
<b>Living Room</b>				
	Living room			<input type="checkbox"/> H <input type="checkbox"/> W
	Couch			<input type="checkbox"/> H <input type="checkbox"/> W
	Coffee table			<input type="checkbox"/> H <input type="checkbox"/> W
	Chairs			<input type="checkbox"/> H <input type="checkbox"/> W
	Lamps			<input type="checkbox"/> H <input type="checkbox"/> W
	Wall hangings			<input type="checkbox"/> H <input type="checkbox"/> W
	Photo			<input type="checkbox"/> H <input type="checkbox"/> W
	Other (describe)			<input type="checkbox"/> H <input type="checkbox"/> W
<b>Master Bedroom</b>				
	Bed			<input type="checkbox"/> H <input type="checkbox"/> W
	Dresser			<input type="checkbox"/> H <input type="checkbox"/> W
	Nightstands			<input type="checkbox"/> H <input type="checkbox"/> W
	Other (describe)			<input type="checkbox"/> H <input type="checkbox"/> W
<b>Guest Bedroom / Study</b>				
	Bed			<input type="checkbox"/> H <input type="checkbox"/> W
	Dresser			<input type="checkbox"/> H <input type="checkbox"/> W
	Nightstands			<input type="checkbox"/> H <input type="checkbox"/> W
	Desk, chair			<input type="checkbox"/> H <input type="checkbox"/> W
	Chair			<input type="checkbox"/> H <input type="checkbox"/> W
	Table			<input type="checkbox"/> H <input type="checkbox"/> W
	Bookshelf			<input type="checkbox"/> H <input type="checkbox"/> W
	Computer			<input type="checkbox"/> H <input type="checkbox"/> W
	Other (describe)			<input type="checkbox"/> H <input type="checkbox"/> W
<b>Outdoors</b>				
	Lawnmower, garden tools			<input type="checkbox"/> H <input type="checkbox"/> W
	Garden furniture			<input type="checkbox"/> H <input type="checkbox"/> W
	Other (describe)			<input type="checkbox"/> H <input type="checkbox"/> W