Initial Benchmarks

Start with these 8 goals to reduce risk and improve safety in your home.

- Clear 3 feet wide pathways throughout the home including hallways and stairs.
- Reduce all piles to no more than 4 feet above the floor.
- Reduce all piles near windows to below window sill height and keep windows accessible so they can be opened.
- Keep all doors clear of belongings, so that they can be opened freely.
- Keep the stove and oven clear of all clutter, so that the oven door can open completely. Keep paper and other flammable materials at least 1 foot away from the stovetop.
- Keep belongings at least 1 foot away from heaters, heating equipment, hot water heaters and electrical panels.
- Regularly remove rotting food, food containers and garbage from the home.
- Keep outlets, surge protectors and extension cords clear of clutter. Do not run extension cords across piles or pathways.

Once you’ve got these covered, you’re well on your way to a healthy and safe home! Remember, if your home also has structural, electrical, plumbing or infestation issues, then there will be some additional steps to take to ensure a healthy and safe home.