



ULTIMATE MOVING GUIDE

PREPARING FOR THE BIG DAY

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Using Packing and Moving Companies
- Things to Remember Outside of the Boxes
- Making Moving Fun for Kids
- Creating a Smooth Move for Your Pets



MOVING: IT'S PACKING TIME

Make moving easier. Starting early and breaking down tasks into manageable time frames will reduce the pressure and potential mishaps. To avoid surprises, allow at least four to six weeks to get organized.

Off-load and Organize

Get organized and dispose of unwanted furniture and possessions. Clean the items you want to take to your new home; it will make packing easier and unpacking will be more enjoyable. You may also want to:

- Hold a garage sale or advertise furniture for sale
- Donate unwanted items to charitable organizations
- Coordinate with your sanitation department to haul away bulk items or extra garbage
- Check with your moving company or the U.S. Department of Agriculture on what plants you can and cannot take with you
- Drain power equipment and grills of oil or fuel and have it properly disposed of



There are items you will need as soon as you move into the new home. Put these items in boxes marked **PRIORITY**.

Packing Priorities

- Basic kitchen supplies to get you through
- A box of bed linens and towels
- Toiletries and medications
- A few outfits and school supplies for your children
- Pet food and medication
- Handy household items like disposable plates, utensils, cups, light bulbs and trash bags
- Tool box



Get Estimates From at Least 3 Companies

Estimates: Ask the movers to provide you with two estimates, one that includes packing and one that does not.

Big item moving: Ask each moving company how they wrap large objects, find out if padding and packing artwork, lamps and mirrors are part of the estimate.

Insurance: Most movers automatically insure for a nominal amount but this may not cover the cost of replacement.

Schedule: Be sure to get your date in writing and provide a deposit, but do not pay in full until the move is completed.

Tip: Unless you pay the moving company to pack your items for you, they usually will not handle loose items, such as utensils, tools or clothing. Be sure to have the details worked out with the mover beforehand.



THINGS TO CONSIDER

When getting ready for your move these are the things to consider outside of the boxes. Complete a change of address form from the post office, and notify financial institutions, banks, and credit card companies of your new mailing address.

Go to the Doctor(s)

- Try to get all doctors' appointments in before the move so you have time to research medical professionals in the new area
- Ask your current doctors for any referrals they may be able to provide

If Moving to a New Area

- Ask for a copy of medical records for yourself, family members and pets
- Collect all school records
- Don't forget to collect any items you might have in a safe deposit box

Last Minute Tips for Using a Moving Company

- Confirm moving date, provide detailed directions and your new address to the moving company
- Make arrangements and be prepared to have someone at the old house and the new house to supervise the move on both ends – most moving companies will require it
- Get the name and cell phone number of the driver so you can be in touch for estimated time of arrival or if they get lost



- Place "DO NOT MOVE" signs on any items in the house that do not go with you
- In the new house, place signs on all rooms indicating the name of the room. Indicate specific bedrooms and living areas so the movers know which boxes belong in each room
- Keep some cash on hand to tip the movers

Do a Final Walkthrough

- Walk through every room of the house and check for missed items. Don't forget closets, drawers, cabinets, attic, basement, garage and storage areas
- Clean out your refrigerator and freezer



YOUR MOVE & YOUR CHILDREN

Moving can be stressful for both adults and children. Before you break the news to your children, research the new town, community and schools they will attend. Write a list of the positive points you want to highlight and discuss. Collect brochures and print out Web pages about the neighborhood attributes and school offerings to give to your children. For young children, focus on prospective fun activities and show pictures of the new area. Communicate how you feel about the move and how it will benefit your family.

Involvement the Kids

While taking kids to every listing you visit may not be feasible, be sure to involve them in seeing the houses you are most interested in. When you have chosen the house allow your kids to make decisions about their own rooms. Plan with them and involve them in decorating choices.

Create a Calendar

Be sure your children fully understand the timing involved with the move. Organize a calendar for young children. Communicate upcoming activities so they get a sense of when the move will happen.

Pack Together

Have your kids clean and organize their rooms, and teach them how to pack. While this may be a fine time to get rid of items you consider clutter, be sensitive to a child's sentimental connections to possessions. Present the idea that some possessions may benefit children in need.

Collect Records

New schools will require medical and vaccination records as well as school records and transcripts.

Maintain Connections

Allow your children to maintain their connections with old friends. Consider throwing good-bye parties. Give them an address book. Provide children with their own "I'm Moving" cards. Engage your children in new community and school activities so that they can begin to make new connections and friends.



YOUR MOVE & YOUR PETS

A change in environment can be stressful for any animal. Pets are creatures of habit and have extremely sensitive nervous systems. Ensure that these special family members acclimate to the change by considering their needs too.

Identification

If your dog or cat doesn't wear one already, provide a collar and tag with your new phone numbers and address or talk to your vet about micro-chipping.

Tips For a Smooth Move

- During packing, try to designate a safe, quiet room for your pets that is ventilated and has natural light.
- If possible, try to set up your new home before your pets are brought over.
- Ease your pets into their new surroundings by interacting with them gently and reassuringly on a regular basis.



Moving is chaotic. Don't overlook these simple things to protect your pets.

Don't leave doors and windows open. Dogs and cats in particular may become confused in the new home and try to escape

Don't change routine or foods. Control as much as you can so your pets have some semblance of consistency

Don't leave pets unattended in a vehicle or in an open air section of a truck. They are sensitive to heat and cold and will need ventilation.

Don't treat your pets like cargo.

If you cannot continue the responsibility of owning your animals, place them in a caring home or as a last resort an animal shelter