

PLANNING YOUR MOVE

Most people experience moving at least once. Whether you are moving down the road, across town or across the country, it can prove to be a challenging time. A well-organized and planned move can greatly reduce the stress involved in packing up and transporting a lifetime of belongings. A successful move can also be a wonderful way to start life in your new home. Whether you decide to move yourself or hire professional movers, plan ahead. Most good moving companies in terms of both trucks and staff, are booked six weeks in advance. This is especially the case during the summer months, which tends to be the busiest moving time of the year. If possible, avoid the end of the month and weekends for moving, weekdays are always less hectic and companies generally offer more economical rates during this down period. Organization is the key to a stress-free move. Here is a check list to help make the move smoother.

ONE MONTH BEFORE MAKING THE MOVE

Start a moving expenses book. Some of your expenses may be tax deductible, so be sure to save the receipts.

- Make an appointment for their rep to come to your home to discuss the move
- Ask for an experienced driver who will be responsible for packing and moving your things
- Ask about cost, timing requirements, the company's liability in case of damage or loss
- Make special arrangements for moving a piano, antiques, appliances etc.
- Obtain a written commitment from the moving company you choose.
- Ask for recent referrals and phone them
- Make any necessary arrangements to move family, ie: hotel reservations, plane tickets etc.
- Gather together all important documents and store them in a safe place – such as safety deposit box.
- Take a good look at what is worth taking and what is not. Be ruthless. Have a garage sale. Rent a garage bin Get rid of all the stuff you really do not need.
- Make plans for the children and pets for moving day; ie:
 - a. Children below the 9th grade will find the adjustment easier if you move sooner rather than later.
 - b. Buy a toy moving van and talk about the move with small children explaining what will happen.
- Arrange for school records for transfers to new schools.
- Get boxes, packing paper, heavy twine and/or masking tape if you are packing yourself
- Stop or transfer newspaper and other home deliveries.
- Make a floor plan of your new home and plan where everything will go. Take necessary measurements, do not try to guess.

TWO WEEKS BEFORE THE MOVE

- Return all items you have borrowed including library books.
- Dispose of flammable items.
- Book freight elevator if you are moving in or out of an apartment.
- When packing, number all the boxes. Keep an inventory list. Label each box with the room where it belongs in you new home. Seal boxes.

ONE WEEK BEFORE THE MOVE

- Prepare a list of all items you plan to take with you personally. Include all jewelry and any valuables which you do not wish to entrust to movers.

- Dismantle and/or unfasten anything that requires it.
- Prepare a list of everything that is left to do.
- Confirm the booking for the moving company
- Defrost and air the deep freezer.

2 DAYS BEFORE THE MOVE

- Do your last laundry. Disconnect and drain the washing machine.
- Finish packing
 - a) Blankets are best moved in large boxes, towels and pillows in dresser drawers
 - b) Do not overload drawers when packing items in dresser.
 - c) Liquids in bottles should have tops secured.

THE DAY BEFORE THE MOVE

- Lead packers around the house and make sure they understand all your written instructions.
- Gather together all keys for the new owners, including garage and shed.
- Pack items that you will carry with you: Mark them; **DO NOT LOAD! THIS IS FOR THE CAR!**

MOVING OUT

- Lay down plastic sheets to minimize dirt in the house
- Conduct a final check for forgotten items.
- Check inventory for number of boxes – break down by room.
- Check Mover's Bill of Lading against your inventory.
- Turn the heat down.

MOVING IN

- Arrive at your new house before the movers. Take milk, bread, coffee, tea with you. It will be a long day.
- Verify that the utilities have been turned on.
- Lay down plastic sheets to minimize dirt in the house.
- Give copies of your floor plan to the movers. As your goods arrive, examine each item carefully as it is put in place and check off your inventory.
- Note any damage. You won't be able to check goods which have not been unpacked, so above your signature on the Bill of Lading write "Subject to loss or hidden damage."
- The first priorities for unpacking will be the children's rooms, TV and radio, and basic kitchen supplies.
- Take a deep breath and accept the fact that it will take a while to settle in.