



**We move the BEST...  
Shouldn't we be moving YOU?**

## **7 Things You MUST Know BEFORE You HIRE a Moving Company**

The moving process can be smooth and easy or it can be difficult and stressful, the difference is determined by the amount of pre-planning you do. This applies to both the move-out and the move-in. The more you think through the steps in each, the easier the transition from one residence to the other will unfold. Here are some important considerations when determining how best to make your move a smooth one:

### **1. Create a list**

First and foremost, you're going to need a list. Whether it be written down or typed in, you'll want to detail what you'll be taking, where it will go as you "stage" each room to be loaded and where in the new place that belonging/box will go. Some of the more common methods of organization include

- a. Color coding
- b. Numbering
- c. Organizing by room

Feel free to either create your own system or combine multiples of the above. Be sure to duplicate or backup your information so that you don't lose it! Be sure to mark boxes on the tops and sides so that no matter how it gets stacked, you can see in which room it goes and what's in that box. And since timing is everything, you'll want to detail the timing of when you'll pack each room, when the truck will arrive, a cleanup schedule, a list of phone numbers to turn off utilities at the old place and turn them on in the new, etc.

### **2. Get rid of the junk**

As in life, sometimes less is more. This particularly holds true when moving. If you've lived in the same place for a number of years, it's amazing how much "stuff" we can accumulate that we ultimately rarely use. Moving is the perfect opportunity to reassess what's important and what's superfluous. Consider creating a pile of things you no longer really use and rather than just throwing them out, here are some other ways to dispose of them and perhaps make a couple of bucks in the process:

- a. Garage sales
- b. Charity donations (make sure to write these off on your taxes!)
- c. Put the item on [Craigslist](https://www.craigslist.com) or another online classifieds site

### **3. Pack before the move**

We all have a tendency at times to procrastinate...this should not be one of those times. You'll save yourself a lot of time and stress if you pack before the movers come on moving day. While you may want to leave the



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more delicate items to be packed by the professionals, you can certainly get a jump on the process by packing up your clothes and [tchotchke](#) and anything else you won't have to immediately access prior to arriving at your new destination. Just keep the basics available leading up the move to minimize last minute hassle with as much stacked in the garage as you can to speed the loading process.

#### **4. Pack heavy items in small boxes**

This tip may seem obvious to some, but many people will fill a large box with books and other heavy items when packing. That makes the boxes much more difficult to lift and carry. Pack heavy items in small, sturdy boxes and leave the large boxes for clothing, linen and other items that do not weight as much. Pack according to weight, with heavier items at the bottom of a box. And, keep in mind not all boxes are created equal! Heavier items should go in more sturdy boxes...and tape the bottom well if you're doing the packing...few things are more frustrating than lugging a heavy box to the truck only to have the bottom fall out or the sides split open.

#### **5. Keep documents close.**

Birth certificates, school records, bank records, bills, realtor info, maps -- all of these documents should be with you and stored somewhere with easy access. Keep your important papers in a easily recognizable container (think bright colors) and label it well. You don't want them winding up on the truck and inaccessible for days to weeks, depending on the distance of your move!

#### **6. Keep your receipts**

Don't forget the tax man when accounting for your moving expenses...many are tax deductible. If you're moving due to a job transfer, you'll likely want to include many of the expenses on your tax return. Consult your tax professional to better understand how to maximize your deductions.

#### **7. Hire quality movers**

You're entrusting your family's belongings to the moving company you choose...don't you think it's worth a little extra due diligence to select the right one? And while you want to find a company that is competitively priced, price shouldn't be the "end all be all" measure from which to choose. Be sure to do your homework to see how others have been treated:

- Read reviews from multiple review sites to get a rounded picture of the company
- Read testimonials on their website, if they have any
- Ask friends and family for referrals

Even if it means spending a little more money to hire a quality company, it's going to be much cheaper and far less aggravation than having a bunch of your stuff broken or missing during the move.