



PREFER TO DIY YOUR MOVE? HERE ARE SOME MOVING TIPS!

SPECIALIZING IN LUXURY HOMES, CONDOMINIUMS, AND SENIOR REAL ESTATE SERVICES

Not interested in hiring a move management company? No problem. Here are some moving tips that can help out do-it-yourselfers. Moving to a new home can be an exciting journey. Whether you're changing cities or neighborhoods, a move is not only a change in scenery, it's the start of a new chapter in life. By finding the right moving service and having a good, though flexible, moving plan, most of the common moving headaches can be easily avoided.

START PLANNING YOUR MOVE

Finding the best mover for your particular needs and at the right price involves a simple evaluation of your needs. Like many service-oriented industries, the moving companies of today have expanded to offer a wide range of services in order to be competitive. From planning your move, to storing your things, to packing and unpacking, to decorating and organizing your belongings in your new home, you can choose the extent of services you require to have them tailored to suit your moving budget.

PACKING

If you will be packing your belongings yourself—deciding what to pack isn't as simple as it sounds, particularly if you're downsizing, but the amount of goods as well as the type of goods you're moving can make a big difference in which mover you choose and how much you'll spend.

A good rule of thumb is to group items into no more than three categories—**Keep, Donate, Throw Away**. Label your things according to the rooms where they'll be moved—bedroom #2, first floor powder bath by stairs, etc. Provide your movers with copies of the floorplan of your new home, or put up signs labeling the rooms so the movers can move more efficiently without having to stop and ask you where things go. Lastly, remember that the movers, though they are professionals, will get tired. On the Chicago-based Bernard Movers website, the movers advise keeping boxes under 50 pounds whenever possible. They also strongly recommend putting heavier items in smaller boxes to reduce bulkiness, and lighter items in larger boxes with proper labeling like "topload"

BE PREPARED

Even in the most well-planned moves, something can happen. Insurance is crucial. Check with your homeowner's insurance carrier about coverage for your belongings while moving. Check with your mover to see whether they provide released value insurance (about \$0.60 per pound of goods lost or damaged, according to NAVL.com) or full replacement value, which you must sign for on your bill of lading. If you are not sure how to estimate the value of your belongings for insurance purposes, your insurance carrier may provide suggestions, such as \$10,000 per room or half the value of the new home. Items of special value such as heirlooms, paintings, or collectibles can be insured under separate riders. In the event of damage to an item, file a claim immediately. Be sure to save the packing materials to show to the adjuster, should there be any problems.

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