

Moving Tips

Planning ahead will help relieve tension and make moving less stressful and more efficient. Here are a few hints to help you develop an effective moving strategy.

Seek Helpful Resources: A realtor can help you learn about your new destination (schools, taxes, jobs, etc.) Movers and packing companies can minimize the exhaustion of the physical move. If using a moving or packing company doesn't fit into your budget, consider hiring one on a limited basis to move the heavy items.

Buy a Day Planner or Organizer: Look for something to help you collect your appointments, telephone numbers and addresses. Include a zippered bag or pouch for receipts and business cards.

Pack with Ease: Collect boxes early and start gathering the nonessentials little by little. Keep on schedule by making a deadline for each room or area of the house. Once you have completed a room, reward yourself and take a break.

Cut the Clutter: Moving is a great time to discard unwanted items you've collected over the years. Go through your garage, attic, basement and storage areas – you may find some good giveaways. Use this as an opportunity to donate items to a local charity.

Pack Your Survival Box Last: Your comforts of home will be out of use for a while, so pack your immediate needs in a box. Include your family's essentials (coffee-maker, blankets, sheets, an alarm clock and entertainment). Gather some books, crayons, paper and if you can fit the TV and VCR, do it! Make sure you keep a small tool kit handy. You may need to reassemble tables and cribs or fix drawers or appliances when you arrive at your destination.

Label Everything! Essentially, packing is organizing your life into boxes and marking each accordingly. Make a list and take photos or videos of your valuables (include serial numbers) you'll want to keep these handy in case anything gets lost.

*Fill any prescriptions so you have at least two weeks' worth of medication

*Have your prescriptions forwarded to the new pharmacy

*Gather important personal papers (medical and dental records, school records, birth certificates, etc.)

*Register your change of address with the post office. *Mail change of address cards to friends and family

*Notify all credit card companies, insurance companies and financial institutions of your change of address

*Contact your bank and arrange for the transfers of all accounts and personal loans. Order checks with your new address.

*Cancel newspaper and magazine subscriptions or change the delivery address.

*Arrange to have utilities (gas, electric, phone, cable, water, etc.) disconnected in your present home and connected at your new home.

*Properly dispose of dangerous materials

*Services automobile(s) for the trip if necessary.