Introduction

Everyone knows that the process of moving can be very stressful. In fact it’s known as one of the top five most stressful events in a person’s life. The act of packing up all of your worldly possessions and transporting them unharmed to your new home is daunting. In addition, choosing whether to hire someone to move your belongings or to do it yourself is a major decision.

We put this eBook together to help people we know who are going through the process. It is a compilation of information from sources like the US Government’s “Protect Your Move” website that is designed to protect consumers from bad experiences and companies. There is information from the American Moving and Storage Association, the oversight organization that holds moving companies to the highest standards, and from Atlas World Group, one of the largest moving companies in the world, who handles hundreds of thousands of moves domestically and internationally each year.

We hope you find this useful in your endeavor. Whether this is a minor or major transition in your life, we wish you peace, success, and happiness.
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## Part 1: Deciding on a Moving Company or Do It Yourself

*Pros and Cons of a DIY move and hiring a moving company*.......................... 5

### Section 1.1: Deciding on a Moving Company

- Beat the stress with a professional moving company................................. 7-8
- Reasons to choose a van line........................................................................ 9
- What to look for in your moving company .................................................. 10-12
- 5 biggest moving mistakes to avoid............................................................... 13-14
- Rules for hiring a mover............................................................................. 15-16
- Make the right moving company selection................................................... 17-18
- Moving quotes from moving companies....................................................... 19
- Understanding valuation and insurance options......................................... 20
- Getting estimates......................................................................................... 21-22
- Top ten tips for a successful move............................................................... 23-24
- Warning signs of rogue movers................................................................. 25

### Section 1.2: If Moving Yourself

- Do-it-yourself moving.................................................................................. 27
- Self-service DIY moving............................................................................. 28
- Renting a moving truck............................................................................... 29
- How to choose the right size moving truck............................................... 30
- Choosing the best time to schedule a move............................................. 31

### Section 1.3: International Moving

- International moves: things to know before you go................................. 33-36
If you’re moving, you might not have decided whether you want to do the move yourself or hire a professional moving company (and in that case, which company?). In section 1.1, you’ll learn about how to hire a mover if you decide to go that route, or if you choose to DIY, section 1.2 will give you pointers about that.
Pros and Cons of a DIY Move Vs. Hiring Professional Movers

Moving is one of the most complicated tasks we will have to complete in life simply because of the number of individual tasks required to get it done. There is so much to plan and so many things to decide when moving, and it all begins with one initial decision - will I hire professional movers or will I handle the move by myself? There are many advantages and disadvantages to both options, and it’s important to weigh all the factors involved before coming to a conclusion.

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The decision to move yourself or hire professionals is unique to your personality, needs, and the specifics of your move. If you are moving long distance or you have a large home, a DIY move will be much more difficult. Also, if you have children and many other responsibilities to focus on, hiring a moving company will make the process a much easier and less harried one. However, if you are single, on a budget, have a small home or apartment, and just a few pieces of furniture to transport, a DIY move may be better suited for you. Before making the decision, it is important to contemplate your circumstances and what is most important to you; safety, control, scheduling, ease and cost are all important factors to consider when deciding if a DIY move or a professionally-handled move is the right move for you.

Section 1.1: Deciding on a Moving Company
Beat the Stress With a Professional Moving Company

Moving can be a stressful event. Anyone moving has more important things to worry about besides getting stuff from point A to point B.

Things you might worry about typically include:

- Arrangements for travel, expenses, etc.
- Family obligations like dealing with children’s moving stress.
- Looking for new schools, childcare.
- Anxiety of meeting new people in a new neighborhood.
- Moving arrangements for pets.
- Making a good impression or just getting to the new work location on time for a job related move.

Your stress level will no doubt skyrocket when you throw into the mix, the task of having to pack up a house and load everything you own onto a truck.

Letting a moving company work out the details of packing, loading, and unloading leaves you with more time to deal with other details of your move.
A professional moving company can help decrease the stress of a move in the following ways:

- Large items are carried by multiple individuals, to reduce the risk of damage.
- Packing materials are supplied and utilized correctly to prevent damage to household goods on the drive to their new home.
- You don’t have to worry about hurting yourself from lifting something that is too heavy for you to lift on your own.
- Untrained movers are more likely to damage and scratch walls and paint as they maneuver large items through the home. This risk decreases with a more experienced moving team.
- They are specially licensed and insured to cover damage to household goods while in transport.

Reasons to Choose a Van Line

You can expect a stress-free move when hiring professional van lines to handle your relocation. (A van line is a large company that has the licensing and authority from the US Government to conduct moves that cross state lines.)

✓ A van line brings experience. They have dealt with almost every type of home-moving challenge imaginable. Van line experts know first hand what you are going through and how to make the transition easier for you.

✓ A van line approaches moving a home with utmost efficiency. It must operate with minimal wasted time to be profitable. With years of doing this kind of work for many different families, they have refined a systematic approach. No one can pack, load, transport, unpack and unload household goods more efficiently than them.

✓ A van line is responsible for its own equipment and brings everything you will need for moving your home. This includes a safe, clean, well-maintained truck; dollies; lifts; cartons, padding, and wrapping; in fact, anything necessary to ensure safe packing, loading and transport.

American Moving and Storage Association (AMSA) is dedicated to assuring the integrity of home-moving professionals and the well-being of their customers. It has established a means for your assurance of a reputable mover: ProMover. This credential attests officially to a van line's quality and ethical business practices.

Word of Warning: Steer clear of moving companies that do not carry the ProMover designation.

Finding a reputable moving company who will treat your possessions with professional courtesy is not as difficult as you may think. By following a few simple guidelines, you can make your next move stress free by finding an experienced and dedicated moving company.

- As many philosophers will advise you, experience is the key to solving life's difficulties – and that includes the process of safely transporting a lifetime of furniture and accessories to a new home. The best moving companies are those that advertise their years of experience, not their rock bottom prices.

- A trustworthy mover's principal occupation is the art of transportation. Generally, those moving companies that have existed for decades have built ties with the local community and its business circle, ensuring that they are motivated to continue providing excellent service to all their customers.

What to Look For in Your Moving Company

Moving ranks as one of the top three most traumatic experiences you'll ever go through. The sheer volume of work – from packing, to lifting, to rearranging all of your possessions in a new space – is undeniably daunting, especially if you have a two or three bedroom house. Moving your kids and getting settled into a new job only add to the stress and confusion.
What to Look For in Your Moving Company (continued)

• Professional moving companies make moving their priority, so that you can focus on all the other challenges associated with this major life changing event. The finest moving companies often form multi-state affiliations or networks with other reputable moving companies, allowing for a smooth transition across state lines. No matter where you're going, a great moving company will be able to provide you with solid service through its time-honored, trusted network of associates.

• Ultimately, the best way to choose a moving company is to think of them as a temporary branch of your family. These are people who will be helping you relocate your life. Like family, you want people who value the same things you do – commitment, honesty, and above all, professionalism.

• Always avoid the cheapest listings; these companies only want your money, and don't want to do the work. Instead, select a company that can literally deliver on its promises, based on years of accumulated experience and a solid reputation. Why add to the trauma? By hiring an experienced, community based relocation service; you'll be saving yourself a great deal of time, money, and stress.

What to Look For in Your Moving Company (continued)

Here is a list of 10 questions that you must ask a moving company before you hire them.

1. How long has your company been in the relocation industry?
2. Can you provide references?
3. What licensing and insurance do you have and can you provide documentation?
4. What types of moving estimates do you offer?
5. How do you charge for moves?
6. How will you protect my home?
7. How will you protect my belongings?
8. Do you have workers compensation insurance?
9. What is your claims process?
10. When will my shipment arrive?
5 Biggest Moving Mistakes to Avoid

Here are five tips to avoid moving mistakes. These will help you before and during your move to make the best and smartest decisions and prevent you from getting scammed.

1. Do-It-Yourself
People underestimate how hard moving can be. There are many pitfalls to DIY moving. The most common ones are; the potential damage to goods, the time needed to pack, load, move, unpack, and of course the moving stress.

2. Getting quotes over the phone
This may work if you have a small move but in most cases getting a quote over the phone is never a good idea. When talking to a moving company, insist on an in-home estimate. To get an accurate estimate, the consultant needs to see everything you are planning to move.

3. Moving during busy season
Summer is the busiest time of the year to move - mostly because the kids are out of school. The two most popular times to move are around Memorial Day and Labor Day. It would be best to not move during busy season or if you have to, book a mover at least 4-6 months in advance.
4. Not looking more into insurance
During a move things can go wrong. The box with your favorite china set was accidentally dropped and broken. Who is going to pay for that, if your mover doesn’t have insurance? The sad truth is, no one. If you want your broken belongings replaced, then investigate if the moving company provides insurance before you commit to the big move.

5. The significantly low quote
Anyone who gives you a quote that is 25-40% lower than other quotes is scamming you. The case that usually happens is that you get the quote now, and then all of a sudden extra charges start piling up and end on more than the cost of the other estimates you received from other movers. Even worse, if you don’t pay the quote they can hold your belongings hostage.

Source: http://www.acerelocation.com/2014/07/5-biggest-moving-mistakes-to-avoid/
Rules For Hiring a Mover

A mover can make or break the ease of a move. When a mover is knowledgeable, honest, and experienced, a move is generally a much better experience for the homeowner or renter as opposed to a mover who is none of those things. To ensure that you are given the best experience possible for your money, the following rules should be applied during the moving company search:

- Contact the BBB at BBB.org to see if the moving company considered for the job has any complaints against it. The BBB issues letter grades to businesses with "A" being the highest grade a company can receive, and "F" being the lowest.

- Aside from the various regulations that must be complied with for local movers, interstate movers must also comply with federal regulations. The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration issues licenses to interstate movers that you should request to see.

- AMSA issues a seal of approval to moving companies that operate within a set of basic and honest business principals. The ProMover seal is the letter "M" above the word "ProMover" and can be found on the website and advertising material of approved moving companies.
More Rules...

- Leave enough time before a move to receive estimates from different companies. Experts recommend that you should get at least three in-person moving estimates. In-person moving estimates are firm, legally binding, estimates, while phone and web estimates are not. A legitimate moving company will not issue a firm estimate via the web or phone. If an estimate is increased, many unethical moving companies will hold the household goods of their client hostage until the increased rate is paid.

- Movers should know their rights as they relate to their goods and their move. If moving across state lines, you should research your rights as a client of a business and as a client of a moving company for the state you start in and the state you end in.

Following this simple advice can have a huge and positive impact on the move of any distance. Whether you are moving in town or across state lines, steps should be taken to protect against unethical and dishonest business practices. While many professional companies are more expensive than unregulated movers, the term "you get what you pay for" couldn't be truer when discussing moving companies. Avoid a potentially nasty situation and go with a company that you have researched and you know you can trust.

Most people don't give too much thought to the people they hire to move their household goods from point A to point B. This is unfortunate because the ease and simplicity of a move can be greatly multiplied by choosing the right moving company. Rather than hiring a moving company at random, follow these simple steps to find the mover right for you:

• Give yourself enough time to make the right decision. If you wait until the last minute to hire a mover, the one who is best for you may already be booked. Don't settle for second best at the last minute; instead start early to give yourself enough time to do your research.

• The only way a moving company can provide a legally binding quote is by performing an in-person survey of your home and items – not by phone or via the web. During the survey, different factors will play a role in determining the final quote. Those factors include: the number of rooms, the number of floors, the number of sharp corners or awkward shaped hallways, and the value of the goods (for insurance reasons). Don't be afraid to have the mover explain their justification for the price offered.
Once the in-person quotes have been issued, the haggling can begin. Collect as many quotes as possible from companies that are trustworthy and that meet your needs. Ask the companies if they can beat the price of the lowest bidding company. Remember, just because a company offers the lowest quote it does not mean that they offer a quality service that is right for you. Research all aspects of the company, not just the quote they offer.

Be sure to check the insurance coverage of the moving company. It's your money and it's your stuff, so make sure you get your money’s worth and make sure that your stuff is protected from unforeseen events.

Moving Quotes From Moving Companies

A reliable moving company can help make the move as smooth as possible by helping you plan for the cost of moving. A reliable and legitimate moving company will offer a free in-person quote, not just a telephone or web quote. A moving company that offers an in-person quote can provide a firm quote, while companies that only provide web or telephone quotes have a tendency to tack on extra fees at the last minute. You should look for the following in a moving quote:

**Determine exactly what the quote includes**
Some moving companies may only provide a quote for packing, loading, and unloading, failing to mention that mileage will be extra. Others will only provide a quote for the amount of time that they can finish the job in, failing to mention that packing supplies and the use of the moving truck will be extra. By knowing exactly what is being quoted, you can plan your financial situation better than those who receive general quotes that lack the inclusion of certain services. When it is determined exactly what the quote covers, you can request additional estimates as necessary. Additional estimates may be needed to plan for supplies (moving boxes, packing peanuts, etc.), insurance costs, and storage fees.

**Another key aspect of the quote is time**
Most moves require homeowners and renters to move by a certain date and time. Failure to stay on schedule could cost you more money than planned. If flights are missed, rescheduling fees will need to be paid. If new owners can't move in at the time originally promised, real estate penalties or civil damages could ensue. If you fail to be at your final destination on time, work hours could be lost. If a move is being conducted across long distances and household goods are to be transported by plane or train, storage fees may be necessary if departure times are missed. All of these things must be considered when moving any distance, but especially when moving long distances. A firm estimate on the amount of time that the mover will need to accomplish their tasks should be attained prior to the move.

Understanding Valuation and Insurance Options

What If Something Is Lost or Damaged?

There's a lot at stake when you move. There's the money you'll spend. The memories you're taking from one place to another, and your treasured possessions—furniture, family pictures and children's toys. When you move, your personal property is loaded onto a moving truck. And while most moves go smoothly, accidents do happen and some items may be lost or damaged during shipment.

Your mover is liable for the value of the goods you ask them to transport. There are, however, different levels of liability. The level you choose will determine the type and amount of reimbursement you will receive if an item is lost or damaged. Be aware of the various types of protection available and the charges for each option.

Under Federal law, interstate movers must offer two different liability options referred to as valuation coverage: (1) Full Value Protection and (2) Released Value.

Click here to read more about valuation coverage:
Getting Estimates

Once you have a list of several potential movers, the next step is to contact them to get estimates. Many movers offer three types of estimates, *binding*, *non-binding*, and *not-to-exceed*. It’s important to know the differences between them.

A **binding estimate** means that you are obligated to pay just the stated price, even if the shipment weighs more than or less than the estimate. But if you add items later to be moved, or request additional services, the mover may revise the original estimate before your shipment is loaded.

A **not-to-exceed estimate** is an estimate based on a binding estimate or on actual cost, *whichever is lower*. Like a binding estimate, a not-to-exceed estimate must be provided to you in writing and is binding on the carrier. Not-to-exceed estimates differ, though, in that the binding estimate amount becomes the *maximum amount* that you will be obligated to pay for the services on the estimate.

This maximum amount alternates with the tariff charges applicable based on the actual weight of the shipment, with the customer paying the lesser of the two amounts. When you accept a not-to-exceed estimate, the move is performed at actual weight based on the tariff rate levels, with the binding estimate representing the maximum charge you’ll have to pay.
Getting Estimates (continued)

The **non-binding estimate** is an approximation of the cost based on the mover's survey of the items to be moved, with the final cost determined after the shipment is weighed. Since a non-binding estimate is based on the actual rather than the estimated weight, the price will often be lower than a binding estimate. When you receive a non-binding estimate, there is no assurance the final cost will not be more than the estimate. The mover, however, cannot require you to pay more than the amount of the estimate, plus 10 percent (or 110 percent of the estimate amount), at the time of delivery. This type of estimate is less common.

**IMPORTANT:** Be sure to check over the estimates you received for accuracy, in case the estimator may have missed anything. Any items not on the initial estimate that you want included in your shipment that turn up on moving day may increase the cost, so be sure you and the mover are 100 percent on the same page (literally) about every item you have.

For further information on estimates, visit [http://www.moving.org/content.asp?pl=77&contentid=77](http://www.moving.org/content.asp?pl=77&contentid=77)
Top Ten Tips for a Successful Move

1. **Verify a mover's identity to know who you're dealing with.**

   - No physical address or phone number online, just a "Contact Us" feature
   - You're quoted a very low price that seems too good to be true
   - No federal motor carrier (MC) number is shown

2. **Get at least three written in-home estimates.** Be wary of any "guaranteed" estimates offered over phone or online; instead, ask to have someone come to your home and provide an in-person estimate. If a mover insists that he can provide a "final" estimate over the phone without ever seeing your home and your furniture — choose another mover.

3. **Check the company's ratings with the Better Business Bureau, or other consumer websites such as Angie's List, and ask family and friends for referrals.**

4. **Know your rights.** Your rights for an interstate move are spelled out in two federal government publications, *Ready to Move?* and *Your Rights and Responsibilities When You Move,*

5. **Understand the level of liability, or valuation, that your mover would be responsible for in case of loss or damage.** The cost of full-value protection must be included by law in interstate estimates — so you must "opt out" to get the minimum coverage of 60 cents per pound, which is not recommended. This is a different product than traditional insurance, which is written by a third party.
6. **Avoid large down payments.** Although some movers may ask for a small "good faith" deposit to hold a date (especially during the busy summer season), be wary of carriers seeking large down payments, or payment in advance for any reason.

7. **Make sure all agreements between you and your mover are in writing,** and get a copy of everything you sign, especially the most important document, called the *bill of lading.* Never sign any blank forms.

8. **Take valuables with you.** Cash, coins, jewelry, photographs, and important papers should be taken with you or sent ahead separately.

9. **Be reachable by phone.** Make sure the mover has your phone number and is able to reach you during your move, in case there is any unforeseen change in your delivery schedule. Be sure to have the driver's full name, ID and truck number to allow for fast and accurate communication.

10. **Ask questions.** The moving business has its own terminology and can be complex. If you aren't satisfied with the answers to your questions or if the mover hesitates when you ask for clarification, talk to another carrier.

For further information, visit [http://www.moving.org/content.asp?contentid=96](http://www.moving.org/content.asp?contentid=96)
Warning Signs of Rogue Movers

Being aware of the warning signs of rogue moving companies is the best way to avoid them. These unreliable and dishonest movers often end up charging more than originally quoted before delivering your possessions, ultimately keeping your goods "hostage" until you pay. Here’s “The Warning Signs” to watch out for:

1. **No Formal Examination**: A representative does not come to your home to view your household goods, and instead gives an estimate over the phone or Internet. These estimates often sound (and are!) too good to fulfill.
2. **Collect Money First**: You might be demanded to give cash or a large deposit before the move.
3. **No Information provided about “Your Rights and Responsibilities When You Move”**: Movers are required to give you a copy of “Your Rights and Responsibilities When You Move” by Federal regulations. Be sure that the mover gives it to you when you are in the planning stages of interstate moves.
4. **No Local Address, License or Insurance**: If you cannot find the moving company’s local address and information about licensing or insurance on the mover’s Web site, it is definitely a warning sign!
5. **Suspicious Assertion**: The mover assures you all the goods are covered by their insurance.
6. **No Company Name**: The mover answers the phone with “Movers” or “Moving Company”, instead of saying the company’s name.
7. **Poor Office Conditions**: The office and warehouse are in poor condition or even nonexistent.
8. **Generic Rental Truck**: The mover doesn’t own any trucks and use unmarked fleet trucks.

For more information on warning signs, visit

Section 1.2: If Moving Yourself

If you’re looking for a worthwhile do-it-yourself moving option, you basically have three to choose from – rent a moving truck, use a self-service moving container company or move all of your furniture and household items using your own vehicle. Each of these options offers certain pros and cons.
Do-It-Yourself Moving

Traditional DIY moving is usually done over the weekend with the help of many friends and family members. Your items are usually hastily packed and jammed in yours and your friends' vehicles where you drive them to your new abode. In virtually every case, this type of move is one where the new residence is not very far away from the old one. This move is all about saving money and getting the job done as quickly as possible.

Do-it-yourself moving like this is the least expensive DIY option but it comes with many risks, including an increased chance of having broken or damaged goods, friends not showing up to help, lack of effort by those who do show up, physical and mental exhaustion from packing, loading and unloading all in one day and other potentially negative side effects. On the plus side, you and your friends get to spend the day together, you can spend the money you save on pizza and beer for the after-move party and you'll have the unending pride that goes along with managing your move by yourself.
Self-Service DIY Moving

Self-service moving using portable storage containers, or containers, offers the best of both DIY moving and professional moving. This type of service features one or more storage containers dropped off at your current residence, which you pack and load yourself. Once the container is full, the container moving company returns to collect the container and transports it to your new home, or if you’re not ready to move in just yet, they can take it to their warehouse where they will store the container, at an additional cost, until you’re ready for it to be delivered.

With this type of do it yourself moving option, you get the added convenience of not having to rush so you get the truck back in time, easier and safer ground level loading, various sizes of containers to pick from and best of all, you don’t have to concern yourself with transporting your items. In addition, depending on your homeowner's insurance, your items may even be covered while in transit until they get to your new residence.
Renting a Moving Truck

Renting a moving truck has long been one of the more popular choices when it comes to handling either short or long distance moves. The benefits of using a rental truck is that you can fit all or most of your items in the truck so return trips are less likely, the large-capacity truck is easier to load and unload than a car, small truck, or van and it allows the moving process to go much smoother while reducing the time spent moving.

The cons of renting a moving truck are all pretty much logistics-based. You’re restricted as to when you can pick the truck up and when it has to be returned by, how much gas needs to be in the tank upon returning it, not to mention how much gas it takes to drive the massive truck from point A to point B. You may also be required to purchase additional insurance and in some cases, undergo a credit check.

Choosing the ideal DIY option

Choosing the best DIY moving option for your needs is a matter of finding the one that offers you the ultimate balance of cost versus ease. If you want to use the money saved from doing it yourself on something for your new home, then handling the entire move on your own will probably be your ideal choice. But, if you want an easier, more convenient moving option, then rent a truck or use a self-service moving company.

How to Choose the Right Size Moving Truck

Choosing the right size truck for a move is important for those who want to make as few trips as possible back and forth to their new home while moving. Extra trips can cause people to pay more for their truck in time, gas, and rental fees if the truck is not returned by the time originally promised. Several formulas can be used to determine the perfect size truck for the job.

Before deciding on the size of the truck to rent, anyone moving must consider the amount of rooms in their home and the types of goods they have to pack. A van may be enough to move a sparsely decorated one bedroom apartment occupied by a single person, but a small truck may be needed for an apartment of the same size if multiple adults and children share the space with large and ornate furniture. A truck rental agency can offer recommendations on the best size truck to rent, but unless a representative from the company visits the property in person, any recommendations offered by a company will be no better than a guess.

Choosing the Best Time to Schedule a Move

Aside from the time that it takes to actually pack a home, travel time during a move can add several hours to the job. Even though little can be done about the length of time it takes to move, travel can be scheduled around certain times of the day for the speediest trip possible.

Major highways can often become gridlocked with rush hour traffic, usually on weekdays between the hours of 8am and 10am and the hours of 4pm and 6pm, when most people travel to or from work. If travel can’t be avoided at these hours, the use of surface roads can shave a considerable amount of travel time from the day’s itinerary. People who live near schools should avoid trying to drive between 2pm and 3pm; when parents start heading to school to pick up their children for the day.

See more at: http://www.acerelocation.com/2012/01/choosing-the-best-time-to-schedule-a-move/#sthash.a2mf0lGk.dpuf
Are you moving abroad? Here’s valuable information to help you when relocating to another country.
To Pack or Not to Pack?

One of the most crucial things to do when you’re preparing for an international move is to set aside a separate room (or at least a portion of a room) in your current home for those items that should not be included in the inventory for the service provider to pack and ship. These items should clearly be labeled “DO NOT PACK.” This includes anything with sentimental value, such as jewelry, keepsakes and photos, important documents such as tax returns and passports, prescription drugs, computer disks or flash drives with important personal or professional information, and other items that may be needed at a moment’s notice or that have a special meaning. Also, you should make an effort to downsize in terms of what you will need to bring with you overseas.

By Air or By Sea?

Another important component is determining which items to send by air and which by sea. Doing an analysis of what it costs and how long it takes to send certain items by land or by sea, and then measuring that against the overall importance of those items, can help you determine the best route. A skilled service provider can guide you. In short, many things that are critical to have the moment you arrive in your new residence should be shipped by air, but things such as clothing, toiletries, kitchen items, and most furniture can go by sea.
Paperwork

Keeping important documents aside is one thing; making sure you have them all in the first place is another. Not having all the customs and immigration paperwork in order and readily available at domestic and foreign airports, hotels, consulates, train stations, corporate offices, and other locations can lead to mix-ups, problems and lengthy delays. One of the most frustrating scenarios is to have your entire shipment successfully reach its overseas destination, only to have it held up indefinitely by customs in a foreign country. Important documents may include academic records; birth certificates; lists of important phone numbers, e-mail addresses and fax numbers; living wills or testaments; marriage certificates; medical records; social security cards; and work visas.
All the Other “Stuff?”

Here is a printable list of some other stuff that you should consider for an international relocation:

- Auto insurance. Will you need a special policy overseas, or a special driver’s license?
- Bank accounts. Will you have to open one in your new country? And if so, will you have the appropriate paperwork to do so?
- Cell phones, laptops and portable electronic devices. Will they work in the country you’re going to? Will you need special attachments or adapters?
- Debts. Do you have outstanding ones you should take care of before you leave (including credit card balances and mortgages)?
- Health care and life insurance. Will you need new policies overseas? Should you contact your current broker to discuss what’s covered, where, under what circumstances and for how long?
- Insurance. Have you insured the move? If so, is it enough?
- Living will and testament. Do you need to update it, copy it, or take out one for the first time?
- Money. Will you have enough with you, and in the proper currency? Will you need traveler’s checks or other kinds of legal tender?
- Moving date. Have you selected a good one? The beginning and end of every month is typically the busiest for international moves. Will foreign holidays get in the way?
- Pets. If you plan on bringing yours, will they be allowed where you’re staying? (And does your pet have the proper shots and paperwork?)
- Restrictions and taxes. Will some of the items you are taking come with a few unexpected surprises?
- Schooling. Have you conducted enough research concerning your children’s education and day care while overseas?
- Translation. Will you need a book or digital device to help you communicate?
- Vaccinations. Have you had all the appropriate ones?
How will I decide on a mover?

To locate an appropriate international mover, begin by interviewing companies as early in the process as possible—in fact, try to begin the week you find out that you’ll be leaving the states. The service provider you select should be one you are comfortable with, one that has plenty of experience and good references, knowledge of the rules, practices and technologies on the arrival end (which are sometimes different from the rules, practices and technologies on the departure end), and can dedicate a single moving coordinator to your move. The coordinator will confer with packing crews, ocean liners, airlines, overseas customs officials, overseas delivery crews and many others. In short, the coordinator will deal with a dozen or so parties, while you will have to deal with just one. That will be a pleasure. You also want a company that has evolved with the times, both in terms of technology and trends, has a well-trained staff and a documented network of service providers overseas with which it has worked in the past. And, of course, you want one that will do whatever it takes to solve a problem.

Source: http://www.worldwideerc.org/Resources/MOBILITYArticles/Pages/1211-Shawah.aspx

Click here to download a brochure with important information on international relocation:

For more information on international moves, please visit:

http://www.internationalmovers.com/international_guide/packing_tips.html
Thank you for reading Part 1 of The Complete Guide to Moving and Packing! We wish you an enjoyable and stress-free move.

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About the authors
This e-book was conceived of, compiled by and produced by Ace Relocation Systems, Inc. Ace Relocation is an agent for Atlas Van Lines, is family-owned, has been in business since 1968 and has nine locations from coast to coast. They execute over 14,000 moves each year, primarily for individuals and their families who are moving for their jobs, whether it be for a corporation, the U.S. Government or the Military.

Disclaimer: this information has been collected from many sources, including our own experience. It is offered as a guide only. Not all situations are the same and it is always advisable to have a professional mover come to your home to evaluate exactly what is needed to safely transport your household goods. We make no guarantees and Ace Relocation Systems, Inc. may not be held liable or responsible for any damage, injury or loss as a result of the contents of this e-book. These are merely helpful suggestions to assist you in your endeavor.