The Complete Guide to Moving and Packing

This guide should make your move a whole lot easier and stress free.
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.
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There's a lot of preparation and packing that need to be done before moving day. This part gives you packing how-tos and tips, as well as important information you need to know before moving.
Section 2.1: Need to Do / Need to Know

This section has important information to help you in the process of moving.
Getting Ready to Move

To make moving a good experience, years’ worth of valuable and sentimental items need to be packed carefully. What should you take and what should you get rid of? The list of things that need to be done can be overwhelming. Here’s a checklist that will help you make sure nothing gets left behind. Whether you pack up your whole house, rent a truck and do it yourself, or you hire a full-service moving company to do all of it for you, here’s how to keep track of all the important details. Complete a few of these tasks each day to simplify your move and ease the adjustment to your new home.

4 Weeks Prior To Moving

- Tour your house and decide which items should be discarded or donated to charity; consider a garage sale.
- Call doctors and dentists. They may recommend a colleague near your new home.
- Get copies of renewable prescriptions.
- Arrange transfer of school records.
- Transfer personal insurance records.
- If you have house plants to move, read through the “How To Move Your House Plants” document on page 57 and start preparing your plants for the move.
3 Weeks Prior To Moving

- Plan to use up most food items before the move.
- Check and clear tax assessments.
- Arrange to have major appliances serviced before you move them.
- Movers can't take aerosols, flammables or ammunition. It's best to use them up or give them away before you move, or pack them in your car if you’re driving to your new location.
- Empty any propane tanks.
- Notify the Post Office and get change-of-address forms. Notify magazines to which you subscribe. Note: You must fill out a change-of-address form for each person receiving mail at your address.
- If you’re moving yourself, begin early to recruit friends to help. Take a look at the large items you have: refrigerator, entertainment center, sofas, beds and other furniture, and whether you have multiple stories to determine how much help you may need.
- If you have pets to transfer, your qualified mover can give you advice on the best methods, and the brochure "How to Move Pets" also will be helpful.
Getting Ready to Move (continued)

2 Weeks Prior To Moving

- Make your travel reservations for the trip.
- Decide which items you’ll pack, and which you’d like your mover to pack if you’re using one. Your mover can provide the best packing materials at reasonable prices. If you’re doing it yourself, overestimate the number of boxes you’ll need – you always need more than you think you do.
- Close or transfer all charge accounts.
- Return library books and other things you’ve borrowed.
- Collect things you’ve loaned, and items in lay-away, cold storage, etc.
- Take the time to fill out "Welcome To Your New Home" for the new owners.
- Arrange to discontinue utilities and delivery services.
- Protect your belongings from damage in transit by disposing of flammables such as gasoline, fireworks, matches, cleaning fluids, bottled gas; also aerosols, acids, caustic drain cleaners, etc.
- Arrange connection of utilities in new home.
- Draw up a floor plan of your new home, and indicate placement of furnishings. It makes moving in twice as easy.
- Take down TV antennas and satellite dishes if you have them.
- Arrange for new cable or satellite TV disconnection.
One Week Prior To Moving

- Transfer bank accounts, and ask your local credit bureau to transfer your records to your new city.
- Reconfirm travel reservations.
- If you’re using a moving company, arrange to have cash, certified check or money order ready to pay driver before goods are unloaded.
- Your local phone company business office can help you with phone service for your new home, as well as disconnecting service at your present home.
- Drain water from all garden hoses.
- Start packing suitcases.
- Get name, address and phone number of your moving company’s destination agent.
- Drain gasoline from lawn mower.
- Begin putting everything in boxes and preparing all large items for packing into your truck. Don’t wait until the day before you move to do this.
- Anything your moving company is packing should be left in place. It’s easier and safer, for example, for them to pack glassware right from the cabinet it’s kept in.
Getting Ready to Move (continued)

One Day Prior to Moving

- Put cleaning supplies, toiletries and coffee pot in special box to be loaded last, unloaded first.
- Finish packing all suitcases.
- Defrost, clean and dry refrigerator.
- Make sure your friends or helpers are committed to coming. Being left in the lurch can mean an entire day’s delay and extra charges for trucks and equipment.
- Defrost, clean and dry refrigerator.

Moving Day

- If you’re using a moving company, be on hand to answer questions, accompany driver during inventory, sign bill of lading, and confirm your new address and delivery date.
- Be sure to advise your driver of your en route accommodations.
- If you’re doing it yourself, start as early as possible. It always takes about 50% longer than you think it’s going to.
- If you know the people moving in, or have a relationship with the real estate agent or landlord, leave "Welcome to Your New Home" in a conspicuous place. It’s a nice gesture to the new owners or renters.
- Make a final check of every room and storage area.
- Make sure windows and doors are locked, keys are transferred and lights are out.

Click here to download a helpful moving checklist:
https://www.protectyourmove.gov/consumer/awareness/checklist/movingchecklist.htm
Non-allowables

Before your possessions are packed and loaded, it is important to learn which items cannot be shipped because they are hazardous, perishable or irreplaceable. Listed below are common non-allowable items that you will need to consider before your move.

**Hazardous Materials** - Items that are flammable, corrosive or explosive.

- Acids
- Aerosols
- Ammonia
- Ammunition
- Car Batteries
- Charcoal
- Charcoal Lighter Fluid
- Chemistry Sets
- Cleaning Solvents
- Darkroom Chemicals
- Fertilizer
- Fire Extinguisher
- Fireworks
- Gasoline
- Household Batteries
- Kerosene
- Lamp Oil
- Liquid Bleach
- Loaded Guns
- Matches
- Motor Oil
- Nail Polish
- Nail Polish Remover
- Paint Thinner
- Paints
- Pesticides
- Poisons
- Pool Chemicals
- Propane Tanks
- Reloading Supplies
- Scuba Tanks
- Sterno
- Weed Killer
Non-allowables (continued)

Perishables
• Food, plants or living things that may die or spoil in transit.*
• Frozen Food
• Opened Food Products
• Plants (Read our “How To Move House Plants” section)
• Produce
• Refrigerated Food

* Agents may agree to transport perishables that are properly packed and require no servicing in transit on shipments moving less than 150 miles and delivered within 24 hours of pickup.

Note: You should empty refrigerators and freezers and keep appliance doors open for at least 24 hours in advance of loading. This will allow appliances to dry out and prevent the growth of mold.
Personal or Sentimental Items
This category of non-allowable can create problems should your shipment be delayed or items lost. Therefore, it is suggested that irreplaceable or sentimental items be carried with you instead of being packed with your shipment.

- Address Books
- Airline Tickets
- Car Keys
- Car Titles
- Cash
- CDs
- Cell Phones
- Certificates of Deposit
- Checkbooks
- Computer Discs
- Financial Documents
- Insurance Policies
- IRAs/Deeds/Tax Records
- Jewelry
- Keys to furniture, safe, home
- Laptops
- Medical & Dental Records
- Medicine
- Pagers
- Personal Video Tapes
- Photographs/Photo Albums
- Professional Files
- Research Projects
- School Records
- Sterling Silver
- Stocks/Bonds
Move For Hunger

Don’t know what to do with all the food you’re not going to consume before moving day? Move for Hunger is a hunger relief organization that works with relocation companies to collect non-perishable food items from people who don't need it, and deliver it to food banks all across North America.

Get more information on donating your food on http://moveforhunger.org/
Section 2.2: “How To…”
Moving Tips

How do I pack my electronics?

How do I move my aquarium?
Top Ten Ways to Cost Effectively Pack for Your Move

Whether you’re a devout penny pincher or just an occasional coupon cutter, these ten tips will help you save money on your move:

1. Scavenge your neighborhood for free cardboard boxes. Many grocery and large chain stores give cardboard boxes away in pallets if you ask for them.
2. Look for newspapers and phone books around your neighborhood. Crumple the pages of the periodicals into the shape of a ball and they make a great substitute for packing peanuts.
3. Use your belongings as packing materials. Blankets, soft clothing, and stuffed animals also make a great substitute for packing peanuts.
4. Hold a yard sale. You’ll have fewer things to pack, less weight to ship, and a few extra bucks of cash in your pocket for any last minute incidentals.
5. Donate unused items to charity. Anything you don’t sell at a yard sale can be donated to the less fortunate. Be sure to get a receipt from your charity, as you may be eligible for tax credits.
6. Recruit friends and family to help wrap items and pack boxes – one of the most time consuming parts of moving.
7. Create a packing plan so you don’t buy more packing material than necessary.
8. Save all receipts for supplies and keep unused packing materials in their original wrappers. This way, if you overestimate the amount of packing supplies you need, you can return the unused materials for a refund.
9. Use the web to search for discounts and coupons on packing material. Many moving companies offer Internet only offers.
10. Before taping any box closed, clearly label the contents of each box on its side. If you need to find something in a hurry, you won’t have to waste and reapply several feet of tape in the process.

Top Ten Ways to Avoid Breakage During a Self-Move

Nothing is worse than unpacking after a long move only to discover several of your favorite possessions broken or damaged. If you're going to be doing it yourself, here are some simple tips you can use to safely pack fragile items and avoid breakage during your move:

1. Plan ahead to ensure you have enough space to store your items during a move. Many items are broken or damaged when individuals are forced to cram and shove their belongings into a truck.

2. Specially mark any boxes containing fragile items. If the placement of the box is important, also label the top of the box, so it isn't placed upside down by mistake.

3. Use packing peanuts to occupy unused space in boxes. The peanuts will insulate the items and help prevent jostling.

4. Make use of bubble-wrap to wrap fragile items. Items that are unwrapped but stored in the same box, even one loaded with packing peanuts, can bump up against and scrape against each other.

5. Use clothing to cushion fragile objects. This can save both space and money.

6. Crumpled newspaper also makes great insulation.

7. When possible, wrap especially valuable items in at least two layers of protection.

8. Instead of juggling multiple boxes, just carry one at a time; especially if the boxes are marked as fragile.

9. When loading a truck or storage facility, stack heavier boxes towards the rear of the container and under less heavy boxes. Make sure that boxes labeled as fragile do not end up under several heavier boxes.

10. Lift and lower carefully. Squeezing a box too tight, putting a box down too fast, or placing a box in an unsafe area can lead to smashed boxes and broken property.

Advice for Disassembling Large Furniture

It’s typically best to move large pieces of furniture in small sections. The lighter the sections are made, the less likely that the item will be dropped from someone’s arms. Disassembly will also make it far easier for moving trucks to be loaded. Before large pieces of furniture are disassembled, ensure that:

• Children and pets are free of the area to prevent injuries from falling furniture.
• Heavy furniture is not disassembled alone. A partner can help keep furniture steady while it is disassembled and offer assistance if an injury is sustained.
• The person taking the furniture apart has the proper tools to do the job. Hammering and banging shouldn’t be required to break down most pieces of furniture.
• Glass doors and shelves are removed prior to the frame being taken apart. These can be wrapped in newspaper or bubble wrap and packed snug in boxes to prevent cracks, chips, and breaks.
• All screws, bolts, etc. are kept organized. Plastic sandwich bags can be filled with all the pieces to a single piece of furniture and taped to the furniture frame.
• Sharp corners and edges are protected. This can be as simple as draping large moving blankets over sections of furniture to prevent scratches and dents on other closely packed items.

In many cases, furniture may not even need to be disassembled. Before hiring a moving company, when an in-person quote is provided, the moving company representative can be asked whether or not any particular items of furniture will need disassembly in order to make everything fit. If so, they should be asked whether or not their movers will provide the service.

Avoiding Spots and Stains When Moving Furniture

If furniture becomes stained or spotted during a move, the owners are often forced to shell out big bucks to have the damage repaired, replace the item altogether, or live with the damage and hope that some cleverly positioned doilies will erase the stains from sight.

Instead of reacting to furniture damage, preventing damage is far less expensive. One way to prevent nicks, dings, and scratches to finished wood is to wrap the item in moving blankets; special blankets designed just for this purpose. If something falls or brushes up against the covered furniture while it’s stored, the moving blanket should absorb most of the shock to keep the item underneath dent and ding free. Moving blankets are also great for preventing scratches to mirrors, especially large standing ones that are particularly sensitive to the movements of a moving truck.

Upholstered furniture like couches and loveseats should always be stored right side up. If absolutely necessary to turn the item over, blankets should be placed between the upholstery and the floor of the moving truck to prevent damage to the fabric. Extra blankets or large sheets of plastic wrap can be used to drape furniture to keep dust and dirt in the moving truck from shifting and settling on the furniture.

Professional moving companies supply their movers with plenty of moving blankets and other protection supplies to minimize the risk of damage to their client’s property. With a professional mover on their side, furniture owners can relax while trained professionals cover, lift, and maneuver the furniture onto their moving truck.

How to Pack a Room

The most efficient way to pack a room is to start with a plan. Set up an area in the center of the room and keep your boxes and materials nearby so they are easily accessible. Pick a starting point and begin packing in a clockwise direction. Packing is a tedious process, but having a plan can greatly improve your progress. Also, keep in mind that packing is a science. Make sure to put heavier items on the bottom of each box with more delicate at the top. Using the right sized box is essential in order to avoid storing too much weight in one box or ending up with too much empty space.

Be sure to take every precaution to keep your possessions secure during transit. Line your box with padding material—newspapers, bubble wrap, etc. Place your item several inches below one corner and fold it over so the item is covered. Fold the item over so the backside is exposed. Wrap a side corner over, turn it over and wrap the other side corner over. Repeat this process until the item is adequately protected. If you’re wrapping dishes, you can stack four to five together, as long as there is bubble wrap between each dish.

Labeling is one of the most important parts of packing. It not only helps to keep track of the items being loaded, but it helps when it is time to unload and unpack in your new home. Labeling each box with both its contents and the room it came from will help you be sure what’s in each box and where it’s supposed to go. This type of organization makes moves much less strenuous.

Packing Components of Household Electronics

Household electronics often require several components in order to work properly. Lost cables and cords can make electronic devices unusable until the component is replaced, which can become costly if the component to replace is hard to find.

• Confusion can be avoided by **packing electronics one at a time**. As each device is unplugged and packed, each corresponding wire or cable should be wrapped and placed with the device in the same box. If the device to be shipped isn't going to be packed in a box, the device's corresponding components can be placed in a plastic bag, labeled, and placed in another box of items going into the same room as the electronic device. This way, when the moving truck is unpacked, the components necessary to make the devices work will be in one of the boxes that followed the device to the specific room.

• **Remove cables and wires from the device before packing**. Left plugged in, connection pieces can become bent or broken if the device they are connected to jostles in transit. Zip ties or rubber bands can be used to keep cables from becoming tangled.

• If small personal electronics like cell phones and digital music players will be used by their owner while they travel to their destination, any corresponding **wall chargers and docking cables should be carried close with the device at all times**.

Packing Tips for Dishes and Glassware

On moving day, newspaper is the handiest kind of paper to have around. In the kitchen, newspaper is great for wrapping dishes and glassware as well as making sharp knives safe to pack.

- Dishes should be wrapped individually, one by one, in enough newspaper to fully envelop the item. Larger items, like serving trays, may require several pieces of newspaper and a few pieces of tape to keep everything in place. These larger and heavier dishes should also be wrapped and packed first to support the smaller and lighter dishes. After each item is wrapped in newspaper and set into a packing box, crumbled up pieces of newspaper should be placed around the dishes and glassware to prevent dishes from banging together in transit.

- When packing dishes and glassware, it’s best not to store heavy ceramics with fragile glass pieces, as a sharp turn in a moving truck could send a dinner plate crashing onto a wine glass. Soft clothes and blankets can also be used as insulation between dishes and glassware wrapped in newspaper.

- Knives should be packed with caution because exposed blades can poke through cardboard and may cut hands that go digging blindly into boxes. All knives should be wrapped in newspaper and stored in a box or bag plainly marked “knives”.

See more at: http://www.acerelocation.com/2011/12/packing-tips-for-dishes-and-glassware
Moving Antiques

When antique collecting becomes a way of life, packing and moving become dreaded tasks. With so much movement around a collection of antiques, the risk of causing damage to a valuable piece significantly increases. To decrease the risk of damage to their antiques, collectors can use some of these simple tips:

• **Double wrap**: Wrap every antique in at least two layers of protection before packing into any boxes. For example, wrap an antique in bubble wrap before placing in a box full of packing peanuts. If using thin newspaper to wrap antiques, wrap antiques several times to create a thick layer of protection.

• **Room to move**: Antiques should not be packed so tight that they rub and bump together. Even if wrapped in two layers of protection, some antiques are so soft or fragile that the pressure of heavy contact could cause them to crack or cause delicate pieces to snap off.

• **Remember up**: Decrease the risk of jostling by labeling the top of each box with the words “This Side Up”. If movers know which side of the box is up, they are less likely to flip it over while moving.
Moving Antiques (continued)

- **Organize like with like:** For larger antique collections it would be wise only to pack antiques together with similar antiques.

- **Plan the floor plan:** Moving boxes packed with valuable antiques should be placed in storage facilities and moving trucks in a way that won’t promote damage. Antiques should not be stored beneath any other household goods or in a position where large items could fall on them.

- **Inventory:** While not actually a tip to keep antiques intact, serious antique collectors should consider inventorying and documenting each item in their collection so they know exactly what they have and what condition they have it in.

Shoe Packing Tips

Every woman loves a good pair of shoes. Shoes can be expensive and hard to replace. Many women don’t realize that moving can cause wear and tear to shoes if they aren’t properly packed. With these helpful shoe-packing tips you won’t have to worry about your favorite pair getting damaged.

What You Will Need

- Medium sized boxes
- Stack of packing paper
- Roll of packing tape
- Permanent marker

How to Pack

To keep your shoes safe during a move, put them back in the box they came in and then in the medium sized box. If you didn’t keep your shoeboxes, you want to get your packing paper and wrap your shoes together. To keep the shape of the shoes, roll up a pair of socks and stuff it in each shoe. Take one shoe, lay it down on the corner of the paper, and roll it about halfway. Then, place the second shoe opposite of the first and continue rolling. Take the bundle of shoes and lay it on its side in the bottom of the box. Repeat the process with all your shoes, starting with the heaviest shoes and working your way to the lightest, so that your lighter shoes don’t get squished. Now that your shoes are packed, seal the box with your packing tape, use your marker to label, and it’s ready to go. This suggested way to pack your shoes may be more time consuming but it is the best way to keep your shoes in good condition.

Source: http://www.acerelocation.com/2014/07/shoe-packing-tips/
Preparing Your Plants
Like any living thing, plants require special attention. If you're moving long distance, you'll want to move plants in a temperature-controlled environment such as your car. Extreme temperatures and lack of fresh air in a moving van can be fatal to your plants. Here are some tips for making sure your plants survive the trip to their new home:

❖ 3 Weeks Before Moving Day
Repot any plants in clay pots into unbreakable, plastic containers. The new pot should be big enough to hold the plant, without being too big.

❖ 2 Weeks Before Moving Day
Prune larger plants. Pruning will make packing easier and produce healthy, bushy, compact, attractive houseplants. You can prune by simply pinching back newer growth with your thumb and forefinger. Succulents (e.g., cacti, jade plants) and ferns do not respond well to pruning.

❖ 1 Week Before Moving
Eliminate any insects or plant parasites. Pesticides may contain harmful chemicals so use them with care and always follow label directions. Another way to kill pests is to put the entire plant in a black, plastic utility bag for about six hours with a bug/pest strip or an animal flea collar. Keep the bag in a cool, shady area. This method is environmentally safer for your home and your plant.
2 Days Before Moving
Make sure your plants are getting their normal dose of water. Keep in mind that during the winter months, roots saturated with moisture may freeze. In warmer weather, overwatered plants are subject to damaging fungus growth during transit.

Moving Day
1. Pack your plants in the morning, or the night before. Conventional packing cartons are good for moving plants.
2. Securely anchor each plant to prevent slipping when the box is lifted or jostled during transit. To do this, place the pot in a box, making sure it fits snugly in the bottom. Use paper around the base of the pot to hold it in place.
3. Next, cushion branches and leaves of the plant with soft paper. Moistened paper can be used for short periods; however, plants allowed to remain wet are more susceptible to disease.
4. Finally, punch air holes in the sides of the box and loosely fasten the lid.
5. Set the boxes upright and clearly mark the lids to avoid putting them into the van with your other belongings. Now, your plants will be ready to travel safely for up to four days.

Rules & Regulations Regarding Plants
Many states regulate the transportation of certain plants. Some states even require a "Gypsy Moth Inspection Certificate." Traditionally, California, Arizona, and Florida have the most rigid restrictions. Check with your State Department of Agriculture or Department of Natural Resources to find out the rules of your destination state. If you find out that you cannot take your plants along, consider taking cuttings instead. Place them in a sterile mix, or in a plastic bag with damp cotton or paper towel. The cuttings should survive several days' travel and be ready to take root in your new home.
Tips for Moving Pets

Household pets, like humans, can experience a significant amount of stress during a move. Unfortunately, since animals can't understand the source of their feelings, their stress might manifest itself in behaviors like excessive noise making, excessive gnawing, potty accidents, or restlessness. As items are packed up and the environment begins to change for the pet, the level of stress the pet feels may increase. On moving day, when boxes are moving around and strangers are walking through the home, pets may become overly excited to the point where it becomes a distraction for movers.

On the days leading up to moving day, when items are being packed and the home is changing before the pet’s eyes, a special section of the home should be established that contains the pet’s favorite blanket, toys, and food bowls. This way, when they begin to feel stressed or excited, they will be able to retreat to a section of the home that they feel comfortable in and recognize. These items should not be packed until the pet leaves the home for the last time. When the owners arrive at their new home, the pet’s favorite items can be placed in the area of the home where they will be kept. This will help the pet begin to associate the new area as its new home.

Before the moving crew arrives on moving day, it’s best for pet owners to remove their animals from the home entirely, especially if the animals can’t be contained to a single section of the home. Pet day-care facilities exist where animals can interact and play with other animals, but not every town has these facilities. Neighbors and family can be asked to babysit for pets.

How to Move an Aquarium

You shouldn't move your fish beyond very short distances because they suffer from the stress. Even with the utmost care, many will not successfully finish the journey. the following might help to minimize the suffering and loss of fish. There are two processes to relocating your fish: Please don't move the fish in their tank.

1. Moving the Tank
The hardest part is keeping aerobic bacteria alive. Because the filtration system keeps the fish life, what should you do? It only takes a few hours without a flow of oxygen-laden water for aerobic bacteria to waste away. If your move requires a drive less than an hour, your bacteria colony may be able to survive. But if your drive is longer than that, you will need to regenerate the bacteria. Remember that you will need to calculate how long it will take to deconstruct, pack, unpack and set up the tank. The total time might be a few hours, and you'll need to take
the following process:

a) Move your fish into a holding container.
b) Drain away the water from your tank. You should keep some of the water to help preserve the bacteria colony, if the move will be short.
c) Take your tank apart. Aquarium plants might be able to survive quite a while, as long as their roots are kept wet. So it should be possible to bag them with some water and carry it. If your move is going to be short, place your filter medium in a sealed container (It’s best if your container is an unused pail or other chemical-free hard-sided container) without cleaning it. For long moves, either clean or throw away filter media. You can pack pumps, heaters, etc. as any fragile appliance.
d) Move the tank yourself, rather than asking a moving company to do it for you.
e) Reassemble your tank at your new place. If you’re doing a short move, it’s preferable to have enough DE chlorinated/treated water to fill your tank and get water filtering. If you’re doing a long move, you need to set your tank up like a brand new tank, including a weeklong delay before putting the fish back in the tank. Start by adding a few fish to get the nitrate cycle set up. After the tank is stable, you can add the fish from your previous house.
2. Moving the Fish

Where should you put your fish?

You have two options:
- A friend’s tank
- A pet store tank

You may be able to use a pet store tank for free (but not every pet shop), and your fish will be fed while you’re moving. Make sure to sign the contract that details what responsibilities the pet store is taking over. Some pet stores will pack and air-ship the fish to you for an additional fee. Keep in mind; it’s not cheap to do that because you will leave your fish there for at least a few weeks.

How should you pack them?

For a short time (a couple of hours) you can put your fish in sealed bags, half-filled with air. If you fill oxygen into the bag instead of air, you can stretch this time span slightly. Put the bags in a cushioned compartmentalized container, and ship by air. This is the same process that pet stores use when they receive their fish. If the fish are larger, or your trip is longer, a sealed bucket is preferable for each fish instead of a bag.

How should you take care of them during a move?

It’s important to keep the water at an even temperature by placing the fish in a sealed cooler or compartmentalized cooler. Fish can survive for up to a week without food if they have been well fed before the move and usually they are too stressed to eat. Additionally, adding food in the tank is not advised because it will degrade the water quality. If you are going to do long trips by car, using a battery-powered air pump and air stone is a good idea. After the move, accustom the fish to the new tank gradually, as when you add new fish to the tank.

How to Pack Food for a Move

- Perishables, or foods that require refrigeration, should be cleared from the kitchen as early as possible. Items like meats, fruits, vegetables, and milk can become rotten and spoiled if allowed resting on the back of a moving truck for too long. Instead of throwing this food out, it can be donated to neighbors, family members, or community shelters.

- When your move is scheduled within the next 30 days, you should stop shopping at the store and begin planning meals around the food already in your home. If a trip to the store is required, only the essentials should be purchased.

- Non-perishable items, like pantry goods that don’t require refrigeration, may be packed depending on their expiration date. Boxed foods, like cereals and dry pastas, may be sealed with tape around the original wrapping or in airtight re-sealable plastic bags.

- On any move that will last longer than 24 hours, or when long-term storage will be required, you should aim to remove all of the food from your home before moving day. Even non-perishables can attract rodents or become unusable in excessive climate conditions.

- Instead of risking having to throw food out when it’s time to unpack, attempt to consume or donate the food before moving day. With less food to pack, you will be able to save money on your move by reducing the overall weight of your shipment while increasing the amount of usable floor space on your moving truck or in your storage container.

How to Hold a Moving Sale

Why Hold a Moving Sale?
You’re about to relocate and along with that comes the task of moving all your goods. Now is a good time to decide what you will keep and what you wish to leave behind. A moving sale can reduce the weight of your shipment and the cost of your move. The key to a successful moving sale is determining what you no longer use, have outgrown or what you can easily replace at your new home. What may seem worthless to you is another person’s treasure. And who knows, if you haven’t sold your home yet, a moving sale may even attract the right buyer!

How to Begin
Ask your family members about items they wish to sell. Or, you might organize a “neighborhood” sale and pool the efforts of other families on your street.

When to Have Your Sale
Set a date and a time as soon as you can. Fridays and Saturdays are usually best; however, try to avoid holiday weekends. Establish a rain date if you think it may be necessary. Determine the hours, such as 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Many shoppers like to be first in line, so be prepared for early arrivals.

Where to Hold Your Sale
Check with local authorities about restrictions for sales in your area. Once you have a location, decide if the sale will be in the garage, yard or basement. Make sure there is ample parking and space for people to move about.
How to Hold a Moving Sale (continued)

Publicize Your Sale

A good source of publicity is your local paper. Contact the Classified Advertising department to find out:

- How they calculate costs — by column inches, number of lines, or number of words?
- What is the cost to run the ad Friday and Saturday vs. Saturday only?
- What is the additional cost for a bold headline?
- What is the deadline for submitting an ad?

Mention the most popular items in your ad, such as furniture, appliances, tools, electronics, etc. Consider including your phone number so people can call for more information. Another publicity technique is to display flyers around the neighborhood. Note in large letters the type of sale, date, time and location. You may also place signs in high-traffic areas on the day of the sale with arrows and directions. (Please note that there may be restrictions on the posting of flyers and signs. Your local Chamber of Commerce can assist you with that).
Ten Essential Preparations for Your Moving Sale

1. Look at your list of items for sale. Visit secondhand shops, retail stores, etc. to determine prices for each.
2. Record the price on a tag or sticker and place on the item in an easy-to-see location.
3. Start saving shopping bags and cartons to make it more convenient for customers. Have tissue paper or newspaper on hand to wrap glass and other fragile purchases.
4. Bundle or package all sets, groups, or units together so customers know what they are getting. Put loose game pieces in a sealable bag and secure inside the box.
5. Set up the yard, garage or basement so that all "For Sale" items will be separated from items not for sale.
6. Display items in groups according to type, such as kitchen utensils, sporting goods, tools, etc. If possible, hang clothing on a clothesline or rack for easy viewing.
7. Set up a cashier's desk with a calculator, scissors, tape, string, markers, a cash box, and plenty of change.
8. Be prepared for the weather to change at any time. Have several large sheets of plastic handy to quickly cover everything.
9. To keep the kids busy, buy soft drinks and bottled water. Ice them down in a cooler the night before. Tell the kids that the money they earn selling drinks is their reward for helping.
10. Assign everyone a responsibility for the day, like cashier, clerk, organizer, etc.

Items to Donate that Will Lighten Your Moving Load

Whenever people get ready for a move it seems they find piles of things they no longer need or want. Many people who get caught up in the task of moving often decide to toss the unwanted items in the trash, but donating the items to a local charity will ensure that they get into the hands of people who would appreciate them.

With every item you are able to donate, the lighter the total weight of your household goods will be. With less to pack and carry, moving rates become less and less expensive. Large and heavy items that are no longer used or wanted are the best to donate because they will make a big dent in the overall weight of the cargo. If you are downsizing to a smaller home, donating unwanted large and bulky furniture will also keep the new home from becoming too crowded and stuffy. Other items that can be considered for donation include:

• movies that are no longer watched
• clothes that are no longer worn
• games that are no longer played
• toys that nobody plays with
• electronics that still work but are not used
• furniture that won’t fit in a new place
• books that have already been read
• cars that are no longer driven

At the time the donation is made, a receipt can be requested to document the donation for tax season. In many cases, governments will grant tax credits to individuals who make charitable donations.

See more at: http://www.acerelocation.com/2011/12/items-to-donate-that-will-lighten-your-moving-load/
20 Ways to Stretch Your Moving Budget

Make money during a move? Of course you can. There are several ways you can earn cash in the days and weeks before and after you relocate, and there are ways you can save money during that busy time, too.

Before the move

Tip 1
If your gas, electric or water utility never returned the deposit you made when you moved into your present home, ask for that money now. If you have paid your bills on time, also ask for a "good customer" letter to take to your new town.

Tip 2
Coupons are an easy way to save on all kinds of purchases, from everyday meals and groceries to services for home and auto. You can find coupons online at such popular sites as Groupon.com and LivingSocial.com. A local Internet search for "coupons" in your city will give you even more options.

Tip 3
If you will be living in another telephone area code, call your long-distance carrier now. They might have special programs available where you are going, or require changes from your present coverage. Or perhaps this is a good time to shop around among carriers to find a better plan.

Tip 4
Are you moving to a smaller place? There is a temptation to sell or give away furniture you think you won't need. Many who downsize their home, retirees especially, arrive with too little furniture. When shopping for replacements, they discover that new furniture is far more expensive now and they regret leaving pieces behind. Take with you any major pieces you think you might use.
Tip 5
Round up the records now that you will need to take with you, including medical, dental, school and veterinarian files. This can save costly toll calls from your new home. Also, while you are at your present address, ask your kids' counselors and coaches for "To Whom It May Concern" letters that tell what your child has accomplished in karate, after-school dance classes, swimming, etc. Having their achievements documented will help them fit comfortably into those same activities in your new community.

Tip 6
You might want to hold the always-popular moving sale to dispose of what you definitely do not want to take with you. For tips on making the most of a sale, see our "How To Hold a Moving Sale" page. Among other tips, it offers questions you can ask the classified advertising department of your local paper about placing an advertisement.

Tip 7
If you donate items to charity, remember to ask for receipts, so you can document federal income tax deductions.

Tip 8
Consider consignment. Offering furnishings to a local consignment shop can bring you more money than you would make from a moving sale at your home. Visit one or more of these stores to see how they handle the consignment process and exactly what they offer for sale. Some carry a wide variety of merchandise including furniture, with prices substantially below the cost of new merchandise, but high enough to make a nice profit for you.

Tip 9
Be careful about selling or giving away what might be quite valuable. If you have doubts about particular items, have them appraised. Many jewelry stores offer free appraisals. For antiques, rugs and other furnishings, check the Yellow Pages under "Appraisers." Some of those services might be free as well.
Tip 10
Is your pooch moving with you? You might start working now to gain some free pet-sitting credit with a friend or neighbor who also has a dog. Take his or hers for a day or so, perhaps while that family is away. Then cash in your chips on moving day or the day before.

Tip 11
You’ll need to learn how to get around in your new community. A GPS or similarly equipped smartphone can help you navigate the streets. Or, you can find mapping resources online at sites such as maps.google.com or mapquest.com. If you prefer traditional folded road maps, you can likely get them for free. Ask your real estate agent or relocation consultant, or check with the chamber of commerce or local tourism bureau.

Tip 12
After you move, you may want to take an occasional break from settling in to do some exploring. You can usually get free printed materials about what to see and do in your new community from your local chamber of commerce, convention and visitor's bureau, and local or regional historical societies.

Tip 13
About banks and their newcomer kits: By all means call or write for one of those packets. They are likely to offer some free product, service or discount to welcome you.

Tip 14
Are you a "trailing spouse"? Get busy now to increase your chances of finding work soon in your new locale. Take advantage of your spouse's corporate relocation program and its assistance for working spouses. To get a feel of the job market in your new community, subscribe to the newspaper or access its classified employment listings through the web. You can also search for local opportunities at careerbuilder.com and monster.com. Prepare to join professional associations in your new community, as well as other groups with the same background or interests as your own. Consider temporary work. It can bring in money right away, get you out and meeting people, and even lead to a permanent position.
Tip 15
You may contact the same insurance company that holds your present homeowner or renter’s policy to get a quote for coverage at your new address. But don't stop there. Costs vary among carriers for the same coverage, and you might be able to save. Be certain you are not duplicating coverage. Compare your standard homeowner’s and automobile policies, as well as any umbrella coverage you might have, to be certain you are not paying for overlapping coverage.

Tip 16
Are you leaving an apartment and expecting your security deposit to be returned? Check now to see if you are entitled to interest on that money. Many communities require landlords to deposit such sums in the bank. The tenant gets it back, with interest, when he or she moves and leaves the apartment in satisfactory condition. If you paid a pet deposit when you moved in, look into that as well. Take with you the name and address of your building’s owner or managing agent, and contact that individual or office if you have not received the money due within 15 days after you move.

The first few weeks in your new home...

Tip 17
Contact the Welcome Wagon. Look on the Internet or find the phone number in the White Pages under "Welcome Wagon." A “hostess” will deliver a basket of free goodies to you, which will include small gifts and discount coupons from area merchants. Check out AngiesList.com and Yelp.com for local, non-biased reviews about restaurants, lawn services, heating and cooling companies, doctors, and more.

Tip 18
During the days right after you move you’re bound to receive something in the mail good for a free or discounted product or service from those eager for your business. So don't be too eager to toss out what looks like junk mail — it could be worth money or gifts! Some supermarkets send neighborhood newcomers coupons good for a complimentary breakfast — free eggs, bacon, bread and juice.
Tip 19
You might want to join the local Newcomers Club. Such groups may offer free or inexpensive ways to see the town. Also, these clubs are a good way to meet people and make new friends. Look for newcomer activities and phone numbers to call in your local newspaper under "Calendar of Events." Many media outlets (especially newspaper and television stations) publish searchable community calendars on their Websites.

Tip 20
Visit the library in your new town as soon as you can. Some have framed art that can be borrowed for one or two months with just a library card. You might find a few paintings or sketches to fill bare spots on your walls for a while. Many libraries also allow you to check out videos on a library card. And don't forget books on local history and places of interest to acquaint you with your new community.


Section 2.3: Preparing Kids for the Move
Moving With Kids

Moving brings up strong emotions, especially when we are children. Your entire life is about to change – you’re going to leave behind everything you know! What will happen to your friends and your school? What will the new place be like? Some kids can become very stubborn. They believe that if they simply refuse to move, they won’t have to. Deep down, of course, they are afraid, but are putting on a show of strength.

Sometimes, the best way to show your kids that they don’t have to be afraid is by having an honest conversation with them, using your own life experience as a way to soothe them. As an adult, you’ve had the experience of moving many times throughout your life. You know that it can be scary, and that it can feel like your life will never be the same, but in fact it always works out. Wherever you move, you end up meeting new people who become your friends.

If your child needs input from someone his or her own age, there are moving companies that offer services illustrating books about kids dealing with the fear and excitement of moving. No matter if your child is excited, scared, anxious, or some mixture of the three, you can reassure them that they will be just fine. Thousands of kids just like them have gone through this exact experience, and lived to tell the tale. Encouraging a child to develop his or her imagination to deal with stressful situations is a great way to deal with enormously challenging events. Whatever you and your kids end up talking about, letting them know that you love them and will be right there with them during the move is the best way to make a child feel better about letting go of his or her familiar environment.


List of 10 Moving Books for Kids

Often, moving is associated with a fresh start and excitement. But a child, who already has his world of friends, a sense of identity with his or her home, school and neighborhood, can be uncertain about moving to another home. Speaking to them in advance and involving them early on in the process will prepare them for the big day and after. These moving books for kids will be helpful in preparing children for the move:

3. We’re Moving (First-Time Stories) Paperback – November 11, 2004, by Heather Maisner, 4 years and up.
7. It’s Moving Day! Hardcover – March 1, 2008, by Pamela Hickman, 4-7 years.
9. Moving House (Usborne First Experiences) Paperback – June 1, 2005, by Anne Civardi, 3 years and up.

Click here to download this List of Moving books for Kids.
Download The United States Map for Kids to Color
or click here to download Buddy the Moving Van coloring page
Thank you for reading Part 2 of The Complete Guide to Moving and Packing! We wish you an enjoyable and stress-free move.

For more such information, read:
Part 1: Deciding on a Moving Company or DIY
Part 3: Moving Day and Getting Settled
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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.

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