

Moving Checklist



Once the decision to move has been made, any household will ultimately come to a point where they need to make a moving checklist that covers everything from A to Z. The more detailed the list, the better the action on moving day. Whether you are a single person, a family man/woman or the person in-charge, a moving checklist can make your job a lot easier and to do just that let us go over some of the detailed points that any moving checklist should cover.

The process of moving from point A to point B can be classified step-wise to make it easier for us to comprehend the entire procedure. Let us start with the first thing people do when they decide to move. Check for a moving company or movers with reasonable rates. While doing so there are a few things that we need to verify about the moving company before giving it a thumbs up.

Choosing a moving company:

1. Reputation: The moving company should be known for their quality service, rating and on-time resolutions. Make sure to check online feedback.
2. Cost Reductions: The company should offer competitive rates, discounts and be willing to negotiate the price.
3. Flexibility: The company should offer 24/7 service so that you can be free to decide whatever time of the day you want to move.
4. Insurance coverage: Accidents and damages are common while moving. A good company would always have a comprehensible insurance cover especially for an international relocation.
5. Experience: An experienced team of workers can resolve unseen issues while loading, unloading and transporting your goods. Demand for an expert team.
6. Free quotes: A free estimate of what it would actually cost should be given so that you can compare it with other companies before making the final decision.

Transferring Records:

1. The second immediate step is to make sure that you update all your records regarding your bank accounts and medical cover.
2. Make sure you have duplicate records with you to help you in case your records are not yet available at the new place.
3. Please do not forget to change your address at all relevant websites and notify people like your bank manager, insurance company, school office, friends, attorney and doctor. Do include the post office for snail mail.
4. Arrange for disconnection of any local utilities like cable, phone, internet a day before moving date.

Packing:

1. Order boxes of comfortable sizes to fill in all the miscellaneous stuff in your house.
2. If the moving date is after a month then the best way to organize packing is to take one room at a time.
3. Once your boxes arrive, start packing things that you do not use on a daily basis. This way most of the clutter will be out of your way. If possible donate things that are no longer useful to you.
4. Do not forget to label the boxes either room-wise or content wise to facilitate organized unpacking. While packing valuable items it is best to label them as 'private do not move'. Expensive items like crystal pieces, glass art, paintings, electronic goods like laptop, iPad etc should be handled with care and packed with materials like thermocol, bubble-wrap, paper etc. Make sure to mark the box appropriately.
5. Moving companies also offer packing services, in such cases be sure to supervise the packing of valuable items so that damage can be claimed correctly if they fail to pack it the right way.
6. Pack essentials like toothbrushes, food, toiletries, medicine etc separately. Defrost your fridge and empty it the day before moving.
7. Prepare the inventory of all packed items including those which need to be hauled without packing like washing machines and refrigerators. 8. Plants, pets and delicate things are better transferred securely instead of transporting them commercially.

Moving Date:

1. Once the moving company is decided, the next part is to determine the best time to move. If

you have enough time to move then you should probably choose a weekend so that you will have enough time to set the furniture and rearrange your belongings in the new house.

2. If the time and the day has already been decided by your company due to urgency then it is best to check with the movers if they can arrange the packing to be done as soon as possible. A flexible company would agree to send in the team at your convenience.

3. Always keep the address of a local storage facility in the new place handy just in case you do not find the house in the right condition.

Moving Day:

1. Check your moving checklist again to complete any forgotten tasks.

2. When the moving day arrives, please check all the contract documents from the movers before signing up. The points to check will be the US-DOT number, the rate decided and the rate per hour if the time on contract has elapsed, the quote agreed upon, number of employees working on your case, the extent of insurance coverage, security of luggage and response time for claims along with time taken to unload your belongings. Declare valuable things for complete coverage.

3. Please note that by this time all your belongings should be in labeled boxes for your own convenience. Cross check your inventory.4. Check the route which the movers vehicle will be taking. Now a days you can track your moving truck online using GPS.

Moving can be a harrowing task if it is done in an unplanned manner, however a planned moving day will see much less hurdles and result in a comfortably achieved relocation. This is made easier by creating a personal moving checklist. Once the luggage has been unloaded, check for any damage before agreeing to sign off the moving contract as completed. We hope that the above moving checklist has helped you plan your moving arrangements in a detailed manner.

8 Tips for Packing Your Home



Do you need to move? Whatever the reason is, you will need to pack up your things before relocating. This can be hectic and you may feel the urge to hire to do it. Should that always be the case? No, you can pack yourself. After all, they're your belongings and only you know how best to handle them. Think about the cost you will have to incur on hiring the packers yet it is a task that requires nothing but a few basics put in place. Here are a few tips to help you pack your things yourself:

1. Start Early:

When moving, time matters. The earlier you start packing the better, especially if you are moving from a big house which has a lot of things. You could even dedicate a day for each room. This will help you pack peacefully and with the required detail because there is not the panic and stuffing things in boxes that would likely be the case if you do it in the last minutes with the adrenaline rush working you out. When packing yourself, rushing should be avoided at all costs and starting early is the key.

2. Use the Right Boxes:

When you want to move, go to a local store and ask for boxes designed for moving. This will be essential for packing your property because they are meant for the job. The boxes come in uniform sizes and can therefore be packed and stacked easily. Furthermore, they can take the more weight than the boxes for carrying shop merchandise that some people reuse.

3. Labeling the Boxes:

Labeling the boxes makes it easy to retrieve the items when you get to your destination. This is very helpful especially if you are not the one receiving them on the other side. How then do you make the labels? It all depends on the mode of packing. Labelling according to the rooms is preferred by most movers. Of course it is applicable if you packed room by room. However, there are those who prefer packing similar items together. With this, your labels will have to follow suit.

4. The Essentials come last:

There are some things you use frequently. If you have a box with personal effects, you have to load it last and unload it first therefore its place is undisputedly on top of the rest. This is applied not only to personal effects but whatever you consider essential. If you love music, let the sound systems be wrapped up last.

5. Small Items in Small Boxes:

Small items can be difficult to deal with. They are likely to get lost as you move. The best way is to have them packed in small boxes then put these boxes in one larger box. This way you will save yourself the work of frantically looking for small treasures when you arrive at your new place.

6. Important Documents are Safer with you:

There are documents you don't want to lose. Such things as passports or certificates are best handled by yourself. Just find a good hand bag and pack them well. They don't need to be transported in a truck with all the other things.

7. Give Some Things Up:

When moving, you have to give up some of the things. Not everything is important and there is a lot of junk you have been longing to get rid of. This is the right moment. You could give away some stuff to neighbors and friends or even sell others prior to the day of moving. This is a good way of reducing the load you have to carry along.

8. Make a Packing List:

When moving, drafting a simple packing list is good practice. It will ease the delivery process. Because all the items in the house can be quite many, you have to make it as simple as possible. Just have the broad categories and give priority to the important belongings. For example, simply write toys. You don't have to go naming each of them. In fact, using the boxes' labels is the best thing to do so that anyone unpacking or receiving the items knows that there's a box for toys or clothes. It is easy to know if anything is missing when you have a packing list.

Consider all these tips when packing things and you will find it an easy task that can be done by anyone.

8 Tips to Find the Best Movers



The whole idea of trying to find a good mover can appear daunting to most people. The moving process in itself is very expensive let alone stressful and can easily become a nightmare if one is not cautious. Again, with a bunch of movers available today, it is a miracle if scams and shoddy practices are not encountered. Rogue operators are everywhere and it is therefore advisable to stay alert and informed about the whole moving process. So how then can one trace a trustworthy moving company? Here are some tips:

1. Start Local:

Checking a company's reputation is crucial and hence the need to ask around. Are there local real estate agents, friends or coworkers that can be consulted? One can also check the phone book for any moving companies with nearby offices. Taking time to find a mover shields you from the many scams that some sites are associated with. Brokerage services for household goods that offer to find moving companies for people should also be avoided at all costs. This is because they are not governed by the laws that must be followed by movers.

2. Initial Screening:

After coming up with a list of possible movers, it is time to go online and do a fast background check. There is the option of calling the moving association to ensure the said company is a member. This means the company abides by the organization's tariffs. Membership here is voluntary. Whatever the vetting choice is, as long as any possible shadiness is ruled out, membership to the association should not rule it out.

3. In-house estimates:

After online vetting, at least 3-4 companies are left. Here is where appointments are set up for the companies to come over and conduct an in-house estimate. If they will not come over, one should just find another company. It is advisable to enquire if the company plans to do the move by themselves or are planning to sub-contract the move to another company. If it is the latter then they should be reconsidered. Visiting their offices is also necessary to ensure every detail about them is in line. Ensure the company's trucks have a permanent mark of the company's name. As an estimate is given, questions should be asked about any differences in pricing. This is because

the difference may be because of what services a particular company offers that another does not. It could also be because of the insurance amount included or belongings valuation. Blank paperwork or one that has not been fully explained should never be signed.

4. Compare the bids:

After all estimates are in, there is need to compare the bids. Check the high bids to know where extra costs stem from. Be wary of the company with low bids. If there is something that is unclear, it is good to call and get clarification. There should be no fear of negotiating for the best possible rates in a case of a number of reasonable bids. In a market with a lot of completion, majority of movers work with price.

5. Evaluate the contenders in detail;

With the gathered information, get back online. To begin with, confirm that all of them are incorporated in the state at hand and also how long they have been running. This can be by checking with the office of the secretary of state or calling the government pages number from the phone book.

6. Ensure proper license and legal insurance:

Enter the company's DOT number in safersys.org website and click "search". If it is accurate, information about the company appears. This include name, address and phone number. Check if they are the same ones you have.

7. Find any complaints against the company:

Call the consumer complaints hotline and enquire about any complaints made against the company. If possible, one should go to the company and see the available facilities.

8. Now select the mover:

After coming this far, some confidence about any company that has been run through develops. Details and dates of the move should be confirmed and a signed order obtained.



The Mover's Guide Tips to Finding the Best Storage Company



Storage is big business and that should count as an advantage for you. If there were some sort of monopoly on storage unit rental then most people would be out of luck. Luckily there are no government controls dabbling in this kind of non-restricted consumer space, making it easy in a free country to be able to use your hard earned money for cheap rent regarding a storage unit for your moving needs. A temporary fix may be fine as well for a company that you hopefully may not have to deal with for an extended period of time if you kind of just want to get in and out within a matter of months or a year. Occasionally though you may need longer term storage which means that you want a good relationship with your unit storage landlord and begin to see yourself being there for a while saving you time and money in happening to have to move around all of your valuable and precious possessions. Here is how to best go about it:

First you want to consider what you have. Do you have furniture, office or otherwise for your living room, dining, and kitchen areas? Do you have longer types of bedroom sets, beds, and/or shelving, long cabinets and other mattresses, frames, and other sorts of large items that do not fit in your current living quarters?

If you have many of these items you may want the larger of the sizes of the moving storage unit you choose. If you have only but a small area to work with that may be ok as long as you don't have to get in there regularly to get to smaller more mobile items that will make you have to get in and out of there periodically.

If you have smaller chests, boxes, and containers of things you may definitely either leave this at the front of the unit or not place them in there at all. So consideration must be given to the

available sizes at various prices before getting the best storage unit and company to go along with that.

Other considerations before we move onto the homework phase of the storage company selection:

What security measures does the storage company take or implement to secure your valuables. Do they have security guards on duty? Do they have up to date alarm and camera systems? If you do not know or cannot really find this information don't be afraid to ask and inquire of more information on these and other matters. This pertains to your investment regarding some of your other investments of property that you own so this type of homework is needed.

Also, you have the basic consideration of whether you need temperature controlled heating and/or cooling in your storage unit. Your most prized possessions may need to be protected from outdoor type temperatures by keeping those secured indoors.

To continue on with our homework phase of your selection process of your best tips for finding the best storage company add on these requirements to make sure you don't get hosed as to what you may have wanted or expected to find in a local storage facility.

Are you looking up online reviews on yelp and google? You may want to look for multiple grievances towards certain storage facilities and see if there is some validity to this complaint. Check your storage and gate hours so that you can access what you need in a timely manner. In a busy student's life for example, it may be difficult to get there, especially if at some miles distance if you have to be working daytime hours or going to school. So see what hours work for you as you may have a reason for having to drive a little further as opposed to settling on what is closest.

This is by no means an exhaustive list, but should be a good place to start when looking for storage.



Types Of Packaging Needed When Moving



Moving places is always a stressful experience, as it needs proper coordination and thorough organization. Good planning is the key to a successful move, and it can save tremendous amounts of time as well as emotional and physical strain. Before getting any of the physical part done, it's important to be aware of the materials that will be needed in the process of packing:

Boxes:

Recipients of your belongings, boxes are not something you're likely to forget. Nevertheless, there are different types of boxes and it's good to know which would fit your furniture and belongings best and which are available if you need them. Being aware of your options is always a good thing. You need to stack up as many as you can before moving, considering you never know the exact number you'll need or how your belongings will fit into them. If you're planning on buying some, make sure to check the quality of the boxes so they don't break mid-moving, which would create a lot of unnecessary problems. A good tip is to use the boxes you bought things in to pack them again, that way you'll be sure it's going to fit and be solid enough to transport them. Boxes also exist in various shapes and forms for more specific things like mirrors or paintings, as well as glass tabletops or mattresses. If the budget is tight, instead of having specific shapes, try packing things together tightly enough that it won't fly around and break. Do try to pack less delicate things like clothes inside furniture if you can, it saves boxes and money.

Wrapping materials:

Everything that's delicate needs to be packed with caution and wrapped in materials that will keep them safe. There are several choices for that category, such as bubble wrap, Styrofoam peanuts or foam wrap. Those will keep you from worrying about glasses, cups, mirrors and all the things in your house that might break. Safe, light and easy to find, whichever you pick is essential to your moving process.

Tape:

Obviously, you'll need that to close the boxes. Avoid basic duct tape and favor instead packing tape, the solid brown one that'll seal your boxes as long as you need them to. To save time and effort, invest in a tape gun or dispenser, a very handy tool that will ensure your don't lose the end of the tape roll, and that will also avoid the sticky fingers problem. If you can, get several of them so you don't have to fight with whoever is helping you to close boxes.

Markers:

These are essential if you want to help your future self unpack everything. Plan to have several of them everywhere in the house so you can find them easily and keep track of what each box contains and where they are supposed to end up.

Tools:

Much like tape and markers, tools need to be within easy reach so you don't waste energy looking around before disassembling (and later reassembling) all the furniture you have. Think screwdrivers and hammers but also wrenches and sockets. If needed, buy a tool kit. You're not losing money as you'll probably need it as some point in the future.

Ziploc Bags:

You're going to want them to keep together essential items like small bits of furniture you really don't want to lose, or maybe to fill a box of everything that has nowhere else to go. Everything lying around in containers or drawers at the bottom of your cupboard, or, even what's left on the floor when you've moved everything can be sorted into Ziploc bags and packed in a bigger box.

Cleaning Supplies:

Not necessarily a part of the packaging you'll need, you will want them around when you start moving furniture anyway when your boxes and duct tape and markers get submerged by dust. If

you keep them around during the moving, you can clean the empty rooms as you empty them. It will save you some time and give you breaks between packing.

Roughly, that's the kind of packaging you will need to go through the tough experience of moving easily. Among the other things you might want to have are gloves, a utility knife if you need to reopen a box, and the classic pen and paper combo that will save you the trouble of remembering all the details and little things you have to check before leaving.



How to Pack Without Damaging Your Belongings



When moving to new houses or apartments the one thing that most people fear most is the breakage and damage of their stuff in transit to their new homes. This usually is the case whether we decide to move the belongings ourselves or hire the help of professionals. Hence a lot of care is needed during packing, transportation and unpacking of the items.

When Moving Electronics:

- Ensure that the smaller electronics are packed in double layer cardboard china boxes while the larger ones use linen boxes.
- Cushioning is essential in protection of the top and bottom of the box and it should also be used between the electronics. Bubble wrap and packing paper should be used to wrap the devices separately.
- The cords from all electronic devices should be removed and wrapped separately too and make sure the TVs are packed in their original boxes.
- In cases of hiring professional movers, ensure they use moving blankets and special plasma boxes to prevent damage while in transport.
- **WHAT TO AVOID:** Although some electronics look sturdy, avoid stacking them up on top of each other while inside boxes and also use pillows for cushioning of both the top and bottom of boxes.

When Moving Kitchenware:

- Then china boxes come double layered and they provide a lot of protection and its advisable to utilize them.
- When packing ensure that the heavy items are the bottom such as bowls and plates and light ones should be placed at the top such as wine glasses or small decorations and ensure that they are positioned standing up.
- WHAT TO AVOID: Separate the non-breakables like pots and pans from the brittle items.

When Moving Furniture:

- Make sure that couches are properly wrapped to protect them from dust and that the tall items are carried high and low.
- “Hooking” of chairs around corners to prevent damage.
- Protect the furniture with blankets and plastic.

When Moving Lamps and their Shades:

- Make sure you have removed the shade from the lamp for safer transportation.
- Labeling of the boxes with “FRAGILE” will avoid instances of placement of items on top leading to crushing of the lamp shades.
- WHAT TO AVOID: Do not force a lamp shade in a box which is too small to fit.

When Moving Antiques & Collectibles:

- When wrapping the valuable item use ink free wrapping paper and a large amount of bubble wrap. Also the tape used should not get in contact with the item being wrapped.

When Moving Pictures Frames:

- This is one of the items that most people tend to lose when moving hence it would be a good idea to remove photos from their frames and transporting them separately.
- The frames should be wrapped in bubble wrap.

When Moving Soft Items and Clothing:

- The items such as pillows and linens usually can be simply placed in boxes of correct sizes, should not be over packed and no bubble wrap or print paper is needed.
- For expensive clothing, simply use wardrobe boxes and also does not require any bubble wrap or print paper for wrapping them.

What to Avoid Packing When Moving:

- Flammable items such as gas
- Hazardous materials such as corrosives
- Living plants or animals
- Jewelry
- Perishable items.

The proper packing of a box:

- Group the items of similar weight and size together, this quite essential to note where the non-breakables like the pans and pots are separated from breakables such as picture frames and their photos.
- Proper wrapping of the items would protect them from water damage and also breakage.
- The usage of bubble wrap and the packing peanuts helps filling the spaces inside the boxes preventing the items moving around the empty space inside the boxes.
- Taping of the boxes should be on the bottom and top of the box and also around the entire box ensuring this is done along all the seams.
- The boxes should be labeled on all sides and should also include your name and address to avoid cases of misplaced packages.

Packing and Packing Safely:

You can do this by yourself or with the hired help of professional packers, thus ensure that each item is packed separately with care given to each individual item so that unpacking the goods can be easy.

Online Resources to Facilitate An Easy Move

Many of us find the thought of moving from one place to another to be stressful. And it holds true for anybody who has to plan everything at the last minute. Relocating was a major pain in the neck twenty years ago. However in today's world we have plenty of help at hand to make our moving process an uneventful one. People can visit moving companies' national websites that have movers and packers in every area and in every state. They can choose the right moving company accordingly. Thanks to the internet, we can plan our first day at the new place without actually going there. We can prepare a list of online resources that are easily available to aid us in getting to know the new place. Before moving to a new location there are a few things that people should check. A little research can make the transition of adjusting to a new place much simpler. So what are the best online resources to use when moving to your new location?

1. Neighborhood:

Check the comments online about the neighborhood on travel sites as you will soon be living there. Know more about real estate and rents by checking out the real estate companies online which cater to customers in that area. Check the local realtors website for actual rents in the neighborhood.

2. Hospitals:

It is always handy to know about and not be too far from away from hospital. www.medicare.gov is a government website that helps find hospitals near your home.

3. Schools:

If you have children, always check out the nearest school website and the rating given by the parents. You can also know more about it from their downloadable brochures. www.greatschools.org is a useful website to check the rating given to a private or a public school in your area. Check if the school will be able to accommodate your children with its different syllabus.

4. Traffic:

You can know the traffic jams in an area by checking the pollution level online. It is always better to avoid rush hour. There are local websites that monitor and alert their subscribers of traffic jams as the day starts.

5. Recreational facilities:

Many people regret moving to an area where options to have a fun evening are lacking. So always check the travel blogs related to the new place to know if there are enough recreational facilities to keep you interested. You can mark down good restaurants and cafes to visit once you move there. Facebook is a great tool to know more about new places. Google is also a convenient way to find new places to eat, dance and drink.

6. Communications:

The first thing that we want to do as soon as we move is get our internet and cable connection fixed at our new house. You can always check Yelp for some great advice and find contractors who can get the setup done for you at nominal prices.

7. Storage:

Often we find that our furniture is much more than required while moving. In cases where the belongings have already been moved to the new place, the best thing to do would be to check local online storage companies that offer storage at competitive prices. You can store your luggage safely in a secure storage locker while you decide what to do next with the extra stuff.

8. Shopping:

Although ordering online is in vogue today, people still like to visit a brick and mortar store every once in a while. Google maps are a great way to find out where the farmer's market is or where do people go for intense shopping experience.

Please note that the above suggestions are for relocating within the country. However if you are moving to a new state, try to get to know any new laws that the state may have about driving, renting etc. If you are new to the area, get to know if the community in your area has a website and try and update yourself with its activities. Each state has its own website which is easily accessible online. One can use such online resources to know more about the state's culture, history, highlights and its cuisine.

Apps are a great way to locate anything online. Be it a restaurant, a school, a hospital or a club. Everything is available online for us to check before hand. These resources can also help us to reconsider our decision of moving if we are relocating to a risky crime ridden area in the state. Using online resources will definitely assist us in making wise decisions about moving to new places without the fear of the unknown.