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Helpful Hints and Moving Tips.

It's the big day. MOVING DAY. For weeks you have spent time planning, worrying and working to make sure all of your belongings make their way to your new home without a hitch.

If you have planned well, this day will be stress-free and an exciting adventure. Without proper planning, however, your moving day could be full of problems, headaches and, in some cases, disasters. But it does not have to be this way! How do you avoid such a bad situation? For starters, plan ahead, do not leave too much up to chance and - keep a sense of humor!

Here are some tips:

- Make arrangements with your mover as far in advance as possible. Last minute calls during the busy season may mean spending extra money or not finding a mover at all.
- If you are moving into or out of an apartment, reserve the elevator.
- If you are moving into a house, arrange for street parking if needed. In the winter, make sure that the driveway is cleared of snow.
- Moving in the winter can throw you challenges you never thought of. Do not include objects that may be adversely affected by cold weather. A moving representative can give you more advice in this area.

- Keep your valuables with you. That means jewelry, money or important documents.
- Leave clothing and bedding in dresser drawers (solid wood dressers only). Remove breakables and do not overload.
- Leave furniture in its original place. Do not move it all to one room.
- Keep any luggage you will need on the trip separate.
- Take your telephone book with you. You may need to contact someone from your old city or town (this will help even on local moves). A telephone book means you won't have to pay for any directory service call charges and is helpful if your internet is not up right away.
- Take down any pictures, fixtures or photos hanging from the wall before the movers arrive.
- If you will be packing yourself, start well in advance of moving day. Discard any unwanted items.
- Defrost your freezer before moving day. Pack food in boxes, laundry baskets or clear plastic bags. Try to use up as much food as possible the weeks before the move.
- Mark the sides and the top of cartons for easy identification. You will want to write a quick summary of contents as well as the room (i.e., kitchen, main bedroom) that carton's contents are required for.
- Be careful not to over-pack a carton. Heavy items (such as hardcover books) should be packed in smaller cartons.
- Hire a babysitter for the day if you have children.
- If you have pets, be sure you have carrying cages.

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- Walk through your house or apartment with the mover indicating special-care items or giving specific instructions - clearly set aside any items you do not want the movers to take (clear one closet or storage room to hold these items - label the room with a note "DO NOT SHIP").
- Verify the delivery address with the mover and provide information about how you can be contacted at the new dwelling. AMJ Campbell provides a system of confirmation of crucial details via emailed confirmation letters (for both local and long distance moves); ask about this.
- Try to be at the new home before the movers start unloading. Know where you want your belongings placed. With a new home your builder might be able to provide you with a line drawing of your home. This will allow you to get an idea of where you may want major pieces of furniture placed before the move day. On a local hourly move, this could provide as much as a 10% savings in total time the move will take. That is money back in your pocket.
- **LAST BUT NOT LEAST:** If the new owners of your old home will not be arriving right away, turn down the thermostat and water heater, tightly turn off the taps, unplug the garage door opener, lock everything and turn out the lights. Your old home should be clean, the lawn cut, damage repaired. The new owner will expect to find the home the way they saw it when they bought it. Hopefully, your new home will also be in the same shape as it was when you acquired it - you will find this out upon inspection with your Realtor or property management company. It is important to do a quick walk-through with your mover upon arrival. This will help both of you to identify any concerns at the outset. You will also want to make arrangements to change or re-key the locks and make the necessary changes to the security system (if applicable).

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Some specialized tips:

- Canned goods and liquids: pack upright with no more than 24-30 cans per box. Wrap glass containers and double bag any containers of liquids that you need the movers to take (decorative cooking oil bottles etc.). Note that liquids will always pose a risk of leakage and that they are on average a heavier item. If you choose to take liquids in your shipment, weigh the value of what you are taking to the cost of the shipment and the risk that it poses should it leak. If you still need to take those liquids, it is recommended that after bagging them to pack them in smaller plastic tubs. This will help contain a potential leak. Winter note: freezing will cause expansion and potential breach - be sure to evaluate what you are taking and the effect of freezing on that item or items.
- Plants: you may want to keep plants with you. We can move them but there is no guarantee on survivability.
- China and Glassware: clearly mark boxes "FRAGILE". Wrap glassware and china with tissue or clear newsprint (if you use printed newspaper, be prepared to do a lot of cleaning upon arrival at your new home). Pack plates, platters and saucers on edges, NOT FLAT, and layer with padding or crushed packing paper between and along the top and bottom of the box.
- Clocks: remove or secure pendulums in large clocks. An expert should prepare grandfather clocks.
- Clothes and books: pack clothes in clean cartons with one layer of flat paper on the bottom to keep away from dust (ask about a wardrobe service on local moves). Pack books in smaller cartons.
- Drapes and Curtains: remove curtains from rods. Fold and pack in cartons or dresser drawers. Wardrobe cartons are good for this as well especially on high end window coverings.

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- Lamps: pack with bedding or wrap separately and place upright in lined cartons. Wrap shades in tissue rather than newspaper. Place upright in a lined carton.
- Medicine: seal caps with masking tape, wrap and place in a small carton. KEEP THOSE YOU NEED WITH YOU.
- Mirrors, Paintings and Pictures: tell your mover about special-care items. Wrap small mirrors, pictures, paintings and frames, and place UPRIGHT at edge of cartons. Large items should also be left upright in larger, sturdier containers. Place tape diagonally across mirrors for protection. Do not use newspaper to protect paintings.
- Computers and Video Equipment: pack in original boxes if possible. Otherwise, use strong cartons and protective pads. Wrap cords separately and label
- Microwave Ovens: remove and wrap all loose articles from inside the oven. Tape the door shut with an X pattern over the door and glass. Use the original manufacturer box if possible. Label box.
- Records, CD's and Stereos: CD's and records should be placed upright in cartons. Wrap the stereo in an old blanket and place in a carton.
- Silverware: If you have a silver chest, put a small towel in each section to keep all the pieces in their place.
- Appliances and Utensils: wrap and place small appliances and utensils in cartons. Place heavier items on the bottom. Have an authorized service prepare all large appliances.
- Tools: discharge the batteries in tools. Pack in strong, small cartons. Wrap separately if valuable.

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IMPORTANT NON ADMISSIBLE ITEMS

Law prohibits household goods carriers from transporting the following goods:

- **EXPLOSIVES:** Ammunition including - bullets, shotgun shells, etc., rail road or road flares, fireworks, detonators, and blasting caps.
- **GASES:** Any gases under pressure of liquefied, propane, quick start, oxygen, acetylene, helium, household or industrial fuel, aerosol cans (hair spray, anti-perspirant, paint etc.), butane lighters, propane tanks.
- **OXIDIZERS:** Bleach, disinfectants, organic peroxides and fertilizers, pool chemicals, hair bleach, chlorine in any form.
- **FLAMMABLE SOLIDS:** Matches, fuel tablets, BBQ starter, pellets, hay or straw, wood chips.
- **FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS:** Gas, Cleaning fluid, lighter fluid, paint, paint thinner, BBQ starter, glues, resins, kerosene, naphtha, acetone, alcohol, lamp oil.
- **CORROSIVES:** Oven cleaner, toilet cleaner, liquid plumber, drains cleaner, lye, acids (sulfuric, hydrochloric, nitric, and muriatic), car or boat or motorcycle batteries.
- **POISONS:** Pesticides, herbicides, cygon, fumigants, wood preservatives, creosote, photographic chemicals.
- **ITEMS SUBJECT TO SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION:** Oil rags, charcoal.

This list does not cover all possibilities. If there is something that you do not feel comfortable with or you have questions about. Please do not hesitate to bring it to the attention of your mover!

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