

Simple Tips To Make Your Move Easier

By J. Lennox Scott

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the average American moves at least twelve times in his or her lifetime. Furthermore, it's estimated that over half of these moves occur between the months of May and September.

Families with school-aged children typically prefer moving during the summer because it's less disruptive. The summer also experiences a surplus of movers because people prefer to move during the warmer summer months when there is less chance of inclement weather conditions.

If you're one of the estimated twenty million people planning to move this summer, there are some things you can do to make the process more efficient. First, make a list of everything you need to do. As you complete a task, check it off your list—this is one of the best ways to get through your move without forgetting anything. You will also need some essential items, such as several black markers to label your boxes, excess paper to wrap breakable items, masking tape to seal everything up, and boxes, boxes, and more boxes.

If you're not hiring movers, you'll need to get your own boxes. And the tip to boxes is that you should get more than you think you'll need. That's because it will save you from having to locate more if you run out during mid-move. Secondly, having excess boxes discourages you from over packing, which can result in damage. You can either purchase boxes from a packaging or moving company or you can try to get them for free by going to grocery or furniture stores. It's a little unknown fact that many retailers are happy to pass along unused boxes.

When packing, it's important to wrap and stuff breakable items with soft, cushiony material. Newspaper works fine, but make sure it's not going to rub off on fabric or linens. It's recommended to wrap anything made of fabric in plastic before packing it. Also, before placing anything in boxes, you need to ensure that the bottom flaps of the box are securely closed. To do so, tape them shut with heavy-duty packing tape. Then, pack your boxes with heavier items on the bottom and lighter on top.

A good tip that will save you time is to be very specific when you label your boxes. Instead of simply labeling them as "Kitchen" or "Bedroom," be more detailed. For example, you might label a box, "Kitchen: dishes and silverware," or "Bedroom: sheets and bedspread." It's also wise to label your boxes on all sides so that regardless of how they're stacked you can read their contents.

There are also some rules of etiquette to follow when you're moving. First, it's important to be courteous to your neighbors—both old and new. The best way to do this is to make sure that your movers do not block your neighbor's driveway or street access. If you have a choice of what time of day to move, opt for weekday mornings, if possible. Typically

your neighbors will be at work during this time, reducing the chance that they will be inconvenienced.

If you have any valuables, it's recommended that you take them with you as opposed to packing them. You risk the chance of losing those items if they're packed away in boxes. It's also smart to take along a box of essentials, including items such as toilet paper, paper towels, tape, soap, scissors, pens, paper, and your toiletries. That way you won't have to track these items down once you've arrived in your new home.

For more information and additional moving tips, go to www.mayflower.com.

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