

## 10 Summer Moving Tips

Moving in the summer when a lot of people do can be such a challenge. But if you prepare well, moving will definitely be easier for you.

Here are ten tips you can follow for an easier move:

- Think about this: Can I handle the move alone? or do I need to hire a licensed moving company for a full-service or partial-service move? The answer to this depends on your family's budget, available time and lifestyle. Before you choose a moving company to help you, get quotes from at least three companies so you can compare and get the best deal. Packing calculators can help you gauge the number of boxes and packing materials you will need.
- Plan where each box or furniture will be placed in your new home before you pack them. Taking pictures of each room in the new house can make this task easier. Write down where each item should go and what needs to be assembled first. Make sure to bring this list with you on moving day. Cross out from the list each item as it is placed in its new room. This will making moving smooth and orderly.
- Create a system when packing and start early. This will enable you to move within your time frame in an organized manner. Go to [Moving.com](http://Moving.com) to complete a free change of address and to schedule utilities. Go through your things one at a time - one cabinet, one storage box, one room at a time. Divide your things among these categories: for charity, give to a friend, recycle, trash, pack now, or keep handy until moving day. With each room or bin you clear out, the task of packing becomes less overwhelming.
- Plan on what to do with the kids on moving day. Think if you'll leave them in daycare or if you'll have a friend or family member take care of them. Don't forget to thank them or give them a thank you gift. Another option would be to set up a corner where they could play or entertain themselves in your new home on moving day.
- If you have a pet, make plans for them too. All the hustle and bustle can be stressful for man's best friend. Bring them to a pet daycare or leave them with a willing friend on moving day.
- Secure small items. Some big things (furniture, appliances) need to be disassembled. You'll need to have a container for small parts like screws. Make sure they're sealed and marked so nothing gets lost.
- Packing cleaning products and toxins (such as pesticides or bleach) can be quite hard to manage. Get rid of as much as you can but be careful in doing this. Dispose of them in an eco-friendly way. If you don't know how, get information from your city's waste disposal department. For those that need to go with you, pack them securely. Put them in a sealed container and make



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sure they're marked clearly. Keep them away from other items, especially your children or pet's things.

- Think about getting full value insurance. This insures the protection of your belongings. In the event that something will be lost or damaged, that item will be replaced or there will be a cash settlement based on the current market value, regardless of the age of the item. It may cost more with a professional mover but the peace of mind that it can give you will be worth it. Do not settle for the required minimum coverage of 60 cents per pound. If something bad happens, it won't be able to cover what was damaged or lost.
- Know your rights as a consumer. For interstate moves, do you research in the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) or contact the state agency in your state. FMCSA requires interstate movers to offer arbitration to settle disputed claims. If you're having a hard time with the moving company or they threaten to hold your belongings for an illegal reason, report them to the Better Business Bureau (BBB).



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