

TIPS FOR A SMOOTH MOVE

This is a time to celebrate and shouldn't be ruined by a hectic moving day. Here are my pro tips for a smooth, stress-free move.

ORGANIZE EARLY

It all starts with scheduling a professional moving company in advance. This ensures you are ready to move with assistance from trusted movers. I am happy to provide recommendations. Next, you want to have a packing strategy so you can manage each task in small steps. The more time you give yourself to pack and the more planning you have in place, the easier moving day becomes. Set up a calendar with some target dates such as when you want to have each room packed, when you can arrange for junk removal, having a garage sale, etc. This way you can check off each item and feel a sense of purpose and success.

TACKLE UNUSED ROOMS AND AREAS FIRST

Whether it is the guest room, a storage room, or a catchall room, always start with the rooms you use the least. Some people say to pack items you use the least first, but this is far too sporadic. Pack your rooms in order of use, and you will make short work of the packing process.

MOVE ON TO LESS USED ITEMS

Once you tackle the less used spaces and storage areas, you can focus on less used items by room. For example, in the bedrooms, start with your out of season clothes. If space allows, keep the packed boxes in each room as you work and mark the box with the room clearly. Items such as books, your formal dishware, silverware, etc. are all examples of things you can pack away without worry about needing them.

SORT AS YOU PACK

Streamline the process by sorting items based on whether you are taking them or no longer need them. This way you don't move anything you don't need. Pack the things you're taking, and then categorize other items such as charity, sell, give away, and trash. Get rid of anything you aren't keeping as you finish each room to reduce the boxes and bags in your home.

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ADDRESS FURNITURE

Consider large furnishings and items such as exercise equipment you might not want to take. Use the same process as above, deciding what you'll do with the items you don't want and getting rid of them before you move. Then consider what items need to be disassembled, and take care of these items based on how frequently you use them.

CONSIDER A GARAGE SALE

You might be surprised how many items you can sell. You could plan a garage sale prior to your move, and then anything you don't sell you can give to charity. Another idea is to list items online. The money made can go towards your moving costs.

RESEARCH THE RULES

If you are moving from a condo or apartment building, make sure you find out their moving policy. You will have to book the elevator on moving day for example. There might also be rules based on the time of day you can move, which means you might need to plan to move some of your belongings in advance of your actual moving day to get everything done. Also make sure there is room for the size of moving truck you book, and that you know where you are supposed to load it.

ENLIST HELP

Don't try to do everything yourself. Have friends and family help with the packing, and to come and join you on moving day. Also, I can recommend services to assist with packing, downsizing, and organization to make the move easier.

CREATE A FLOOR PLAN

On your final walk through, or on one of your final visits to your new home, make sure you measure everything. As already mentioned, you want to make sure your furniture will fit and this includes the doorways! Then create a floor plan for each room. If you have a floor plan in mind, you can direct the movers to the exact spot you want things placed so you don't have to do it yourself.

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PACK YOUR MOVING ESSENTIALS

Pack a first sleepover box containing essentials like medications, toiletries, linens and a few changes of clothes etc. You can also pack a moving box with items like scissors, tape, plastic sandwich bags, allen keys, and tools so that you can dismantle and assemble furniture as needed.

BOOK JUNK REMOVAL

It is always a good idea to book junk removal to assist with the moving process. If you live in a studio apartment on your own, this isn't necessary. However, if you have a family or live with a partner, you might have more trash than you expect. This can be a problem if you live in an area or building with limited trash service. Also, anything you don't sell or give away can also be taken away.

Most importantly, don't overdo it. If you start far enough out, and follow these steps you can make the move easier without too much stress. Don't be too hard on yourself and be sure to find some quiet time throughout the process. Whether you treat yourself to a massage, go for drinks with friends, or snuggle up with a good book now and then, you want to be well rested and in a positive mind when you move into your new home.