

A+ Moving & Storage

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Residential Move Tips

Moving with children and pets:

- Talk to your kids about moving as early and as often as you can, and let them ask questions and express fears. Consider the stress adults find in moving, and then think about the feelings of children who don't have many methods for handling stress.
- Check for parks, museums, fun centers, and other things that your children can look forward to at the new location.
- Help your children prepare their own address book with phone numbers and email addresses of all the kids they will want to keep in touch with.
- Prepare a list of moving tasks that older children can help with, and then let them – or help them - plan how to get the tasks completed, so that they can truly feel that they are a part of the move.
- Ask a friend or family member to babysit during packing and especially while loading and unloading the truck. You and your very young children will be much more comfortable.
- If the children are at home, have them write their names and new address on the cartons from their rooms to help them become familiar with their new street and town.
- Have plenty of crayons, markers, and paper for your children to be creative during all the upheaval. Draw an outline of their new room at the new house, and let them create the placement map for their furniture and toys. Give them a couple of empty boxes to pretend “pack” their toys and their brothers and sisters.
- Allow your kids to decorate the boxes from their rooms with crayons and markers after the packing has been completed in that room – while waiting for loading to begin.

- Consider boarding your pets at a friend's house, a kennel, or at your veterinarian for the day. You'll need to stop by the vet's anyway to pick up medical and shot records, and a day at the kennel might be less stressful than being confined in an area that they are used to having free access, and will certainly be less stressful for you - knowing that they are being well cared for.
- Make sure to carry plenty of your pet's regular food with you for the trip and for the first several weeks at the new home. The stress of moving can get to our pets too, and addition stress of being forced to change their regular diet if you can't find the right brand might cause some unfortunate digestive upsets.
- Make sure you have a safe and approved carrier for your pets – for whichever method of travel they will use.