

# A+ Moving & Storage

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910-485-4400

## Residential Move Tips

### *Organization:*

- Create a binder, notebook, file folder, or other place to keep all information regarding your move. Keep a detailed record of all moving expenses, including receipts. A lot of moving expenses may be tax deductible. Don't forget to obtain and save receipts for items that you've donated to charity.
- Create a "checklist" of tasks for each step of the move as you plan it. Include things not directly related to the move – like shutting off and starting up utilities, phone, cable, and newspaper and magazine deliveries.
- Identify and plan for any "extra stops" like mini-storage facilities, or personal items from an office or business location.
- Check through your files for paperwork specifically related to the home you are leaving – if you're selling your home and the buyer would like the warranty paperwork for the new water heater, you don't want it to be packed away in an inaccessible box.
- Check through your files for any paperwork that may result in identity theft including credit cards, certificates of deposit, stock certificates, social security cards (including the ones for your small children that have usually been filed away and not looked at since birth), birth certificates, etc. Make sure these type documents are secured in an out of the way location and moved by you personally - so that neither you nor the movers need to worry about them.
- Shred - don't just discard - any old bills or other paperwork before moving. Boxes full of old paperwork are not only heavy, adding cost to your move, but they can also be a source for identify theft.
- Check your homeowners insurance to make sure you understand exactly what your policy covers during a move. Your movers can offer advice and suggestions on purchasing additional coverage when needed for the move.
- Check the warranty on electronics, appliances, and even some things like grandfather clocks or large computer systems. Some need to be serviced by a professional before moving – or the warranty may become void. This is particularly important for front-loading washers and very big screen televisions.
- Obtain appraisals from licensed appraisers for all antiques. If it's not officially documented as an antique, it will go on the inventory as "old, scratched, and dented."
- Avoid using oil and wax on wood furniture right before moving, especially if your items are going into storage for any length of time. The surfaces may become sticky or tacky, causing packing materials to adhere, which will mar the finish.
- Schedule appointments with specialists for disassembly and crating of items such as pool tables, shrunks, crystal chandeliers, or hot tubs.
- Don't forget to clean out any personal lockers at the local gym or golf course. Return library books, and collect items you have loaned to friends and neighbors – and return any items you have borrowed.
- Create a moving supplies tote box or bin, where you can store tape, markers, your inventory listing, safety knives, and other moving supplies.

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- Make back-ups of all computer files – especially those irreplaceable family photos.
- Purchase and distribute locking style plastic bags or large sealable envelopes for each room or area. Packaging small items from drawers, desks or cabinets into plastic bags prior to packing in a box will help eliminate loss. This is particularly important for KEYS.
- Use locking style plastic bags that can be written on with permanent marker for hardware from items that have been disassembled. Use the same style bags for picture hangers and drapery hooks or hardware – one for each room.
- Identify and/or gather together all *irreplaceable*, delicate and high-value items. Make decisions for the best packing and transporting. Packers and Movers will be happy to offer suggestions and otherwise help to problem-solve.
- Be prepared to personally move personal items of value or importance, such as jewelry, coin collections, memorabilia, and especially prescription medications.
- Plan to have rugs, draperies, and any upholstered furniture cleaned several weeks before the move. Leave items in the cleaner's wrappings if possible – but only if you can be sure they are completely dry. Dampness will cause mold, especially if your household goods are going into storage.
- Consider “pre” packing items from the garage and storage areas into plastic bins or totes that won't have to be unpacked at the new location. This is an especially good idea for things like holiday decorations – as it will help keep them organized during the move and all year long afterwards. The money spent on the totes and bins is money saved from having the professional movers pack these items for you.
- Remember that the movers will not be responsible for damage or breakage on items that you've packed yourself unless there is visible damage to the outside of the box. If you're not positive you can get it there safely – ask for advice, or even have the professionals just pack the things that you're most nervous about.
- Federal law prohibits the transportation of flammables, cleaning fluids, matches, aerosol cans, ammunition, and other combustibles. Make sure you have a plan to safely and legally dispose of these items at an approved site. Some little known items that are illegal for movers to transport are fire extinguishers, household batteries, nail polish, and children's chemistry sets.
- Discard or clearly identify all items not moving.
- Consolidate any cleaning supplies that will be needed when the house is empty. Keep these in an area that is specifically marked as NOT moving.
- Make a list of items that you will need as soon as you arrive at the new home. Make sure you include things like safety knives to open boxes, a telephone, alarm clock, radio, cleaning supplies, first aid kit, paper plates and disposable silverware, a couple of towels for each family member, bed linens, toilet paper, paper towels, address books, pencil and paper, tools to put things back together, your moving notebook, etc...