

PLANNING YOUR MOVE

At Good Time Moving & Storage, our goal is to make your move effortless. A good plan can help you save time, money, and frustration. Here are some steps we recommend.

PREPARE

Doing these things *before* you begin contacting movers will help you get accurate estimates and select the mover that is right for you.

1. **Identify and consolidate unused or unwanted items.**

If there are items you know you no longer use or want, this is a great time to sell or donate them. If you can't sell or donate them before obtaining estimates, be sure to segregate or clearly mark the items you will not be moving so they are not included in your estimate.

2. **Consider donating or selling large, bulky items that can be easily replaced.**

Many people don't realize that things like swing sets, washers and dryers, desk chairs and recliners, flat screen televisions, and exercise equipment cost more to move than to replace.

3. **Include items you have in other locations.**

Do you store items in unexpected places in your home like an attic, basement, or cellar? Are some of your belongings in a storage facility, a shed, or with family or friends? Is anyone giving you items you will want movers to pick up from another location? Be sure you let your movers know about these so they can plan the appropriate amount of time and personnel for your move, and provide you an accurate estimate.

4. **Determine your budget.**

Is your employer providing relocation reimbursement? Be sure to find out how much they will reimburse. If you are paying for your move yourself, determine how much you can realistically afford.

5. **Determine if you want the moving company to pack your items for you.**

Typically, in order for your items to be insured, the moving company must pack your items. If you choose to pack them yourself, moving insurance companies consider

the boxes to be "PBO" (Packed by Owner) and not covered in the event of a claim.

6. Determine if you want to purchase moving boxes and supplies from the moving company if you plan to pack your belongings yourself.

During the in-home estimate, the estimator can help you determine how many boxes you should need to pack your items. The benefit of purchasing moving boxes from the moving company is that they will be of consistent size and shape which stack better, make your load more stable and less susceptible to damage and enables the movers to load your items more quickly, saving you time and money.

SELECT A MOVER

Here are some steps *Real Simple* recommends to find a reliable mover who fits your budget.

1. Get recommendations from people you know and trust.

Friends, coworkers, and local real estate agents can often offer suggestions.

2. Do some initial research.

Consumer advocacy groups like the Better Business Bureau (bbb.org), movingscam.com, and ripoffreport.com; and online review sites like Yelp and Angie's List provide a good initial screening of businesses.

3. Call at least three or four companies for an in-home estimate.

4. Be sure to show the estimator all the items you plan to move and tell him/her about any circumstances at your new home that may complicate the move.

If the movers find you have more items to move than were included in the estimate, they can refuse to move your items for the price you were quoted.

Things that can complicate a move and result in additional charges include restricted access in a gated community, stairs, elevators, a significant distance from where the truck can park to the closest door.

5. Review the estimate and make sure your questions are answered and you understand everything.

6. **Use a colorful, easy-to-find folder to file all your estimates and other paperwork about your move.**
7. **Compare all the estimates.**
8. **Conduct a more thorough review of the companies you like best.**
9. **Make sure the company you want to use is properly licensed and insured.**
Use safersys.org to look up the moving company's USDOT license and get more information.

SCHEDULE YOUR MOVE

Contact your desired moving company and schedule a date for your move. Be aware that you will need to submit a deposit at the time you schedule. The remainder of your balance must be paid by credit card, money order, or cashier's check on the day of your move.