

Making Moving Easier and Less Stressful

Why Begin Planning Early?

- Less clutter ... helps the house sell faster
- Reduces the moving costs ... Lowers the total weight that a moving van carries and takes less time to pack and unpack
- Lets you move into a more clutter-free, better organized new home
- Lowers your stress level ... the move will go more smoothly

Getting Ready for the Move

1. Start with one room at a time. Begin in areas that least affect day-to-day activities such as a closet with out-of-season clothes or the basement.
2. Sort by category to know what you own: For example: in your bedroom closet, gather together all of your blouses or shirts for men and hang them up together. It may be necessary to go to several closets in other areas of the house to retrieve everything.
3. Decide what to keep, what goes to charity, consignment, garage sale, and what should be thrown.

Ask yourself:

- 1) Did you use it in your old home in the last 2 years?
 - 2) Do you enjoy the item?
 - 3) Can you use it in your new home? Some things may not make sense to take. If your yard will be taken care of, you may not need your lawnmower or garden tools.
 - 4) How much space will you have in your new home?
- Use a notebook or a portable file folder to keep notes and information about the move in a central place.
 - Check out these websites. Some even count down the days.
 - <http://www.2c.com/legal.html>
 - MovingToDos.com
 - About.com
 - Movermax.com
 - All-Moving.com

- Start collecting boxes – Grocery and liquor stores are a good resource.
- Decide what each room and closet will be used for in the new home. It will make it easier to figure out what items should go in there.
- Organize items by the room they're going into not the room they're coming from. For example, your children may be sharing a room now but will have their own rooms in the new house. Or, a lot of your paperwork is now in the kitchen or bedroom but may be going into a new home office.
- Label/color code the boxes for each room.
- Do as much as possible in the new house before moving in. New bookshelves? Painting? Floors re-sanded? Wipe out cabinets and put down shelf liner. Anything to speed up the move-in process.
- Set aside the critical things you want to take with you e.g. photos, jewelry, important papers, prescription medicines, toiletries and a few days' worth of clothes.

Moving Day

- Get help – family, friends, professional organizer.

At The New House

- Put items in the area where primarily used. For example, in the kitchen, store glasses and dishes near the dishwasher.
- Unpack children's boxes and organize their rooms first.
- Make a plan to unpack the remaining boxes ... a specific number each day, or perhaps a room a week.