Moving tips

6-8 WEEKS BEFORE MOVING

Use up things that may be difficult to move, such as frozen food.

Get estimates from professional movers or from truck rental companies if you are moving yourself.

Once you've selected a mover, discuss insurance, packing, loading and delivery, and the claims procedure.

Sort through your possessions. Decide what you want to keep, what you want to sell and what you wish to donate to charity.

Record serial numbers on electronic equipment, take photos (or video) of all your belongings and create an inventory list.

Change your utilities, including phone, power and water, from your old address to your new address.

Obtain a change of address packet from the post office and send to creditors, magazine subscription offices and catalog vendors.

Discuss tax-deductible moving expenses with your accountant and begin keeping accurate records.

2-4 WEEKS BEFORE MOVING

If you're moving to a new community with school-age children, contact the school district and request information about enrollment.

Make reservations with airlines, hotels and car rental agencies, if needed.

If you are moving yourself, use your inventory list to determine how many boxes you will need.

Begin packing nonessential items.

Arrange for storage, if needed.

If you have items you don't want to pack and move, hold a yard sale.

Get car license, registration and insurance in order.

Transfer your bank accounts to new branch locations. Cancel any direct deposit or automatic payments from your accounts if changing banks.

Make special arrangements to move pets, and consult your veterinarian about ways to make travel comfortable for them.

Have your car checked and serviced for a trip of any length.

Collect items from safe-deposit box if changing banks.

2-3 DAYS BEFORE MOVING

- Clean out your refrigerator and freezer.
- Have movers pack your belongings.
- Label each box with the contents and the room where you want it to be delivered.
- Arrange payment for the moving company.
- Set aside legal documents and valuables that you do not want packed.
- Pack clothing and toiletries, along with extra clothes in case the moving company is delayed.
- Give your travel itinerary to a close friend or relative so they can reach you as needed.

Moving essentials

- Furniture pads
- Hand truck or dolly
- Packing tape
- Bubble wrap
- Newspaper or packing paper
- Scissors
- Utility knife
- Labels
- Felt-tip markers
- Cornstarch packing peanuts
- Plenty of boxes

MOVING DAY: OLD HOME

- Pick up the truck as early as possible if you are moving yourself.
- Make a list of every item and box loaded on the truck.
- Let the mover know how to reach you.

MOVING DAY: NEW HOME

- Be on hand at the new home to answer questions and give instructions to the movers.
- Check off boxes and items as they come off the truck.
- Install new locks.
- Confirm that the utilities have been turned on and are ready for use.
- Unpack children's toys and find a safe place for them to play.
- Examine your goods for damage.