

Moving Tips for Sellers

1. Give your forwarding address to the post office, usually 2-4 weeks ahead of the move.
2. Notify your charge cards, magazine subscriptions, and bank of the change of address.
3. Develop a list of friends, relatives, and business colleagues who need to be notified of the move.
4. Arrange to have utilities disconnected at your old home and connected at your new one.
5. Cancel the newspaper.
6. Check insurance coverage for moved items. Usually movers only cover what they pack.
7. Clean out appliances and prepare them for moving, if applicable.
8. Note the weight of the goods you have moved, since long distance moves are usually billed according to weight. Watch for mover that use excessive padding to add weight.
9. Check with your condo or co-op about restrictions on using the elevator or particular exits.
10. Have a "first open" box with the things you'll need the most – toilet paper, soap, trash bags, scissors, hammer, screwdriver, pencils and paper, cups and plates, water, snacks, and toothpaste.

Plus, if you're moving out of town:

1. Get copies of medical and dental records and prescriptions for your family and your pets.
2. Get copies of the children's school records for transfer.
3. Ask friends for introductions to anyone they know in your new neighborhood.
4. Consider special car needs for pets when traveling.
5. Let a friend or relative know your route.
6. Carry traveler's checks or an ATM card for ready cash until you can open a bank account.
7. Empty your safety deposit box.
8. Put plants in boxes with holes for air circulation if you're moving in cold weather.

Six Items to Have on Hand for the New Owners

1. Owner's manuals for items left in the house.
2. Warranties for any items left in the house.
3. A list of local service providers – the best dry cleaner, yard service, etc.
4. Garage door openers.
5. Extra set of house keys.
6. Code to burglar alarm and phone number of monitoring service if not disconnected.

Twenty Low-Cost Ways to Spruce Up Your Home

Make your home more appealing for yourself and for potential buyers with these quick and easy tips.

1. Trim bushes so they don't block windows and cut down on light.
2. Buy and new doormat.
3. Put a pot of bright flowers (or a small evergreen in winter) on your porch.
4. Pt new doorknobs on your front door.
5. Put a fresh coating on your driveway.
6. Edge the grass around walks and trees.
7. Keep your garden tools out of sight.
8. Be sure kids put their toys away.
9. Buy a new mailbox.
10. Upgrade your outside lighting.
11. Use warm, incandescent light bulbs for a homey feel.
12. Polish or replace your house numbers.
13. Clean your gutters.
14. Put out potpourri or burn scented candles.
15. Buy new pillows for the sofa.
16. Buy a flowering plant and put it in a window your pass by frequently.
17. Make a centerpiece for your table with fruit or artificial flowers.
18. Replace heavy curtains with sheer ones that let in more light.
19. Buy new towels.
20. Put a seasonal wreath on your door.