



Certified
Residential Specialist
The Proven Path To Success

11 Steps for a Successful Move

An efficient, well-managed move not only saves you time and money, but it also can make the transition to your new home easier and more pleasant for your family. That's why the Council of Residential Specialists offers these proven tips to help make your move a trouble-free experience from start to finish:

- 1. Hire movers.** Find a reliable moving company as soon as you know you'll be moving. (Your REALTOR® may be able to suggest one, or you can check for favorable reviews online.) Be clear about your needs and expectations, and be sure you understand the company's policies and all possible charges before signing a contract. Also, be sure to compare prices between 2-3 different companies to find the right price.
- 2. Take care of the details.** Arrange for utilities — phone, electric, internet — to be shut off or transferred to your new home. Contact your bank and credit card companies to inform them of your new address. Complete a change-of-address kit at the post office (also available online), and give your friends and relatives your new address.
- 3. Make a packing list and check it twice.** Take a room-by-room inventory of your home, and use that inventory to create a list. Organize the list two ways: first by room, then by type of item (i.e. furniture, linens, packable items, fragile items and valuables). Once you have a comprehensive list of everything in your current space, use highlighters or markers to color-code all items into three categories: keep, sell or give away.
- 4. Get rid of everything you don't want or need.** Once you've sorted your list, you can begin sorting the items you plan to sell and the items you plan to give away. If some of the give-away items are particularly large, arrange to have a local charity pick them up from your home. For the items you plan to sell, hold a small garage sale, or post the items to eBay or Craigslist. Just be sure anything that isn't making the trip to your new home is gone before moving day.
- 5. Pack your remaining belongings in an orderly fashion.** Try to get a head start on packing by boxing up things you use less often first. This may include off-season clothing, extra linens, tchotchkes or electronics. Be

sure to sort items by the room they'll go in in the new house, and label the contents on the outside of each box. Pack more fragile items carefully and separately (for example, don't put wine glasses in the same box as pots and pans), and write FRAGILE in large, legible letters on all sides of the box. Liquids and medicines should be sealed in leak-proof containers.

- 6. Plan to transport valuables yourself.** Movers will be responsible for almost everything, but hard-to-replace or very valuable items, including important pieces of jewelry, personal documents and works of art, should be transferred by you separately from everything else in the house. Pack these items carefully in your car so you can be sure they reach your new home safely. Same goes for pets and plants — you want to be sure they survive the trip!
- 7. Prep your new home.** If at all possible, go to your new home before the official moving day, or even several hours in advance, to clean and make sure the necessary utilities, like plumbing and electricity, are in order. You can also use this time to plan out exactly where your furniture should go.
- 8. Prep yourself for the move.** Get plenty of sleep the night before, and be sure you're eating and drinking enough water throughout your moving day. Even though you've hired help, you'll end up doing a lot of hard work, so you'll need to keep your strength up.



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9. Make life as easy as possible for the movers.

In addition to offering a muffin or a cold beverage to your movers, be ready to show them which items you want loaded last (and therefore unloaded first). Have as many items as possible fully ready to go -- this should be just about everything in your home. Anything that can be boxed should be by the time the movers show up. After they've finished unloading your belongings on the other end, quickly but thoroughly assess whether there's any damage. If there is, be sure it's noted in writing before the movers leave and before you sign anything. Also, have a cash tip ready for each mover.

10. Donate canned goods and food items so that you don't have to move them.

Organizations like Move for Hunger can help you clear out your pantry while also helping those in need. Move for Hunger works with a network of about 650 moving companies throughout the United States to deliver unwanted canned goods to local food pantries. Or, if you're looking for a local food bank but aren't sure where to find one, visit Feeding America's website (www.feedingamerica.org) for a zip code-searchable list of food pantries across the country.

11. Plan something special to celebrate a successful move.

You may be too tired day-of, but congratulate yourself on a big job well done by taking your family for a nice dinner or hosting a party for friends.

For more tips on making the most of your move, talk to a Certified Residential Specialist. CRS agents are more experienced and educated than the average REALTOR®. They look out for your best interests and can put all their knowledge and



experience to work for you.

In the current market, you need more than just a REALTOR®; you need someone who can make your homebuying or selling experience an unqualified success.

You need me, a Certified Residential Specialist®

Start your journey today by contacting me:



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