

SMOOTH MOVES

Midway Moving's Top Tips for Making the Best of Your Move

CHICAGO – May 1st marks the unofficial start of moving season, the period running until the end of September in which the majority of new leases begin and new homes are purchased. At this time every year, thousands of Chicago-area residents pack boxes, load trucks and haul their possessions up flights of stairs, while thousands more hire movers in hopes of easing the burden.

“Moving can be extremely stressful. The emotional strain of leaving a familiar home for a new one, not to mention the physical effort of organizing, packing and transporting all your possessions, can make it a very trying time,” said Jerry Siegel, president of Midway Moving and Storage, which performs more than 15,000 moves every year. “Hiring moving professionals who are experienced and highly trained is the best way to take the anxiety out of your move. Our movers are required to complete a rigorous in-house training program before they can service a customer. They’ve seen everything and they know how to handle any situation that may arise on moving day.”

Whether you are moving yourself or hiring professionals, Midway Moving has some tips to help you make a smart move.

- 1) **Pitch before you pack.** Don’t waste your time moving things you don’t want. Clean out closets and desk drawers, donate old clothing and sell unwanted furniture. The more you get rid of, the less you’ll have to pack.
- 2) **Stock up on supplies.** Buy plenty of tape, packing paper and bubble wrap, and get more boxes than you think you’ll need. Midway Moving refunds its customers for unused moving supplies. Be wary of used boxes from grocery stores or other merchants – they may not be of adequate strength to carry your things.
- 3) **Pack an “essentials box.”** This will be the last box you pack and the first box you open. Pack lightbulbs, scissors, a flashlight, telephone, toilet paper, soap, hand towels, shower curtain, cups, plates, plastic utensils, trash bags, household cleaning supplies and any tools you’ll need for assembling furniture.
- 4) **Make a moving kit.** Pack prescription medication and Tylenol along with a bag of nonperishable food, such as nuts, granola bars, dried fruit or pretzels, and one bottle of water for every member of the family.
- 5) **Pack one room at a time.** Label each box with a description of its contents and destination (e.g. guest bathroom, Mom’s office). The more specific you are, the easier unpacking will be.
- 6) **Avoid the overload.** Place heavier items like books in small boxes, and light items like pillows and blankets in larger boxes. Pack more delicate items like glassware at the top of the box, or in a smaller box inside a large one. Never pack more than 50 pounds into one box.
- 7) **Be specific.** Delicate pieces or heavy pieces will travel best in containers that were designed specifically for them. Mirror, marble tops and paintings should be packed in picture-mirror crates, while fine china and crystal should be packed in thick-walled dish cartons.

- 8) **Use your extra linens as packing materials.** Fold plates into your sheets, wrap vases with towels, and slip small picture frames into pillowcases. Fill in any spaces with socks. Try to avoid using newspaper, as the ink can leave stains.
- 9) **Put the kids to work.** Moving can be difficult for children. Have them pack a small box of their own things so that they feel like they're helping out and have a little more control of the new situation.
- 10) **Very Important Possessions.** Important documents such birth certificates, passports, social security information, medical records and any items related to the purchase or lease of your home should be kept with you, not packed in a moving box. Make arrangements to have valuable items such as stocks, bonds, currency and fine jewelry stored by a bank until after your move.

For more tips, such as detailed information about how to pack specific items in your home, please visit www.midwaymoving.com.

Midway Moving and Storage, Inc. is the number-one rated residential and commercial relocation and storage company in Chicagoland. The company is comprised of dedicated professionals, dedicated to providing superior service, accurate planning and cost-effective moving and storage services. Midway shows its commitment to the community by providing job opportunities and training and by supporting charitable organizations through donations and meaningful participation.

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For more information, please contact:
Liz Kores, Public Relations Counsel
312/217-0588
liz@kores.org