

Whether it's your first move or your tenth, it's never easy to keep track of all the little details that come up when you're ready to sell your home. That's a good reason to turn to a friend for help.

As an ERA Real Estate Specialist, I have a great deal of experience in serving people on the move. You can depend on me to help you get ready for the move ahead.

*Tip:* You can help the children prepare emotionally for the move by involving them in the planning. Show them pictures of the new city and your new home. Also, there are many good children's books about moving. Help them plan a going-away party with their friends.

## UPON LEARNING YOU'RE MOVING

- Contact your local ERA Real Estate agent to start marketing your current home and arrange to have you contacted by a real estate professional in your new community
- Schedule a visit to your new community to begin house hunting

## 8 WEEKS BEFORE MOVE

- Inventory household and decide what to keep
- Obtain written estimates from several movers
  - Discuss packing, loading, insurance, delivery, and claims
  - Usually you should choose a reputable company with best price per unit of weight
- Establish a file for moving papers and receipts
- Obtain community information from Chamber of Commerce at new location
- Ask your real estate agent for floor plan of new house to plan furniture arrangement

## 7 WEEKS BEFORE MOVE

- Ask your doctor, dentist, accountant, etc. to help find qualified professionals at new location, and arrange to have records transferred
- Select schools to which children will transfer, and have records transferred
- Find out from your accountant what moving expenses are deductible

## 6 WEEKS BEFORE MOVE

- Get change of address kit from post office
- Send your new address to insurance agents, charge accounts and credit card companies, magazine subscriptions, friends, and relatives

## 5 WEEKS BEFORE MOVE

- If moving yourself, reserve a truck or trailer, and determine how many boxes you'll need
- Arrange for storage if needed
- Hold garage sale—donate unsold items to charity or sell to second hand stores

## 4 WEEKS BEFORE MOVE

- If moving yourself, assemble packing materials
  - Furniture pad
  - Hand truck and Dolly
  - Packing tape, packing string, and rope
  - Bubble wrap, Newspaper, Styrofoam peanuts
  - Scissors and utility knife
  - Large, self stick labels
  - Felt tip markers
  - Boxes
- If you're doing the packing, get started, no more than 50 lbs. per box, and clearly labeled
- If the mover is going to pack, arrange for it to be done two days before loading
- Picture any valuables packed, and establish condition and value
- Make sure your goods are adequately insured, preferably on your homeowner's policy
- Have furniture, drapes, and rugs cleaned
- Begin to use up overstocks of staple foods
- Collect valuable personal papers
- Make travel plans and motel reservations
- Notify the State Motor Vehicle Bureau of your new address

## 3 WEEKS BEFORE MOVE

- Schedule discontinuance of service (gas, electric, water, phone, cable TV, newspaper delivery, etc.) at present home, and arrange start of services at new home
- Arrange for deposit refunds from utilities
- Make arrangements for child care and pets on moving day
- Make any required special arrangements for moving pets and plants

## 2 WEEKS BEFORE MOVE

- Dispose of items too dangerous to move
- Have car(s) serviced and ready for trip

## 1 WEEK BEFORE MOVE

- Have enough medications to last two weeks in new home, and have prescriptions forwarded to pharmacy in new community
- Close/transfer bank accounts, and buy traveler's checks for trip
- Cancel any redirect deposit or automatic payment arrangements
- Make arrangements to pay movers

## 3 DAYS BEFORE MOVE

- Withdraw contents from safe deposit box, and arrange insurance and transport of items
- Remove anything from drawers that may break, spill, or stain

## 2 DAYS BEFORE MOVE

- Defrost and dry refrigerator/freezer
- Set aside valuable items, traveling clothes, and toiletries you're taking with you

## MOVING DAY

- Be on hand when driver arrives, and remain until moving crew leaves
- Accompany driver through house as he inventories good items
- Complete info on bill of lading, and give driver exact directions to new home
- Tell driver and van line where you can be reached during the move
- Before van leaves, walk through house to make sure nothing has been overlooked, no plumbing/electrical items are left on, and everything is locked
- Retain copies of bill of lading and inventory

## DELIVERY DAY

- Meet driver at new house to supervise unloading/unpacking
- Check carefully for damaged or missing items, and make sure this information is written on your copy and driver's copy of inventor
- Re-key locks
- Make sure utilities have been connected
- Unpack kids' toys
- Have handy
  - Scissors and utility knife
  - Coffee cups and tea kettle
  - Paper plates and towels

- Toilet paper
- Instant coffee, tea, and soft drinks
- Bar soap and dish soap
- Pencils and paper
- Local phone book
- Masking tape
- Bath towels
- Trash bags
- Shelf liners

## AFTER ARRIVAL

- Visit new post office to start mail delivery
- Determine requirements for auto registration and driver's licenses
- Arrange for medical/dental service
- Start getting acquainted
- Join up—Social/Civic clubs, professional associations, Places of Worship, etc.
- Sign up for Homestead Exemption (if applicable)
- Register to vote