

TEN TIPS TO ORGANIZE A GOOD MOVE

1. Develop a master "To Do" list. The Allied Van Lines *Guide to a Good Move* brochure provides a generic list that can be customized for your particular situation. Set up a calendar with dates when tasks on the "To Do" list need to be accomplished.
2. Sort through belongings and eliminate items that are no longer needed or wanted. To help you decide what to keep Allied Van Lines moving experts recommend asking yourself these questions: When was the last time I used this? How does it make me feel? What is the worst possible thing that would happen if I didn't have this? If you have a great degree of hesitancy, keep it.
3. Recycle belongings that are staying behind. A garage sale can be a lucrative and fun way to reduce the number of items to move. Or consider donating old linens, toys and games to local homeless shelters, children's hospitals or schools. Oftentimes it's easier to "let go" of an item when you know it will help others less fortunate.
4. Use up supplies that are not transportable. About 4-6 weeks before the move, use up cleaning supplies and eat food items in the freezer.
5. Pack 'like' items together. Games, pet supplies, photos, sewing supplies and toys are all items that should be packed together in appropriately sized and labeled containers or boxes.
6. Organize vital moving documents in a small portable file box and take it with you on moving day. According to the professionals at Allied Van Lines, it's a good idea to have on file the registration number, the names and phone numbers of the origin and destination agents, the driver's name and vehicle number. Other items that may come in handy include your address book and a telephone book from your old hometown in case you need to reach someone.
7. Place colored stickers on moving boxes, once you've finished packing. Use a different color for each room in your new house. To help everyone remember which color goes where upon arrival, place a matching colored balloon on the door of the appropriate room.
8. Put together a "survival box" full of items that will be needed immediately upon arrival. Allied Van Lines moving experts recommend including necessities such as light bulbs, linens, paper products, garbage bags, soap and tools. Take the box with you instead of loading it on the van so that you won't be caught unprepared if you arrive before the moving van does.
9. Make appointments to have your hair cut, the car serviced and current prescriptions filled shortly before the move. By taking advantage of these services before the move, you won't be pressured to find new service providers immediately after arriving to your new home.
10. Send change-of-address cards out to creditors, insurance companies, friends, magazine subscriptions and utility companies. You can access change-of-address forms online or, stop by your local post office and pick up a change-of-address kit filled with cards and a helpful checklist to help you remember who to send cards to. Leave a forwarding address with the post office once you know where your new home will be.