


# MOVES SHORT WITHOUT A SHORT FUSE



## COSTS

Moving companies charge by the hour for local moves. Inter- and intra-state moving charges reflect the pounds of belongings moved. If you wish to reduce moving costs, Woodle suggests you start by selling or giving away any items you will not use in the new home. "Have your garage sale in the old house. It takes less time to

move less stuff," said Woodle.

Some people pack part or all of their things. Many moving services provide full- or partial-packing discounts. Regardless of who packs, make sure the boxes are labeled on the upper, side corner. This will ensure proper placement at the new location.

Woodle said people often do not utilize the movers to the fullest extent. He suggests thinking about furniture placement for the new location before the movers arrive. "If you know where things go, the movers can put them in place. This way you don't have to move the furniture around alone," said Woodle.

## MOVING DAY

Make sure you or someone acting for you is available to the movers on moving day. Woodle believes the time spent giving detailed instructions to the movers and confirming destinations will make or break your move.

He recommends you walk through the house with the movers confirming what goes and what does not. Movers do not use inventory listings on local moves because the items are loaded and unloaded the same day. For items you wish to either move yourself or have other destinations, Woodle suggests placing them in a closet or in the corner of one room and labeling it, "DO NOT MOVE,"

## HOME SWEET HOME

Your list of things to do will span the length of your arm. Woodle said to request a checklist from your mover. To-do items will include hook-ups and disconnecting utilities, transferring lawn service and notifying the post office. Make sure you reserve and confirm your moving date with the company at least two weeks in advance. Remember, it is the little things you plan to do that smooth a move's unplanned surprises.

Whether you are moving across town or across the country, moving is an adventure. Veteran movers can tell stories that chill even the bravest souls. Household items may be lost or broken and connections missed. Some of the most interesting stories are of moves across town or shorter.

To prevent your next move from becoming a tale from the land-of-the-lost, plan your move carefully. Brad Woodle, owner and operator of Jim's Moving, believes simple steps will save time, money and possessions.

## SELECTING A MOVER

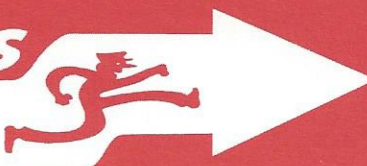
First, you must decide whether you will move yourself or use a moving service. If you decide to use a service, make a point to visit with friends and family who have recently moved. Ask what service they used and about their experience. If they recommend a company, call and ask how long they have been in business, for other references and if they are fully insured and bonded.

## INSURING YOUR THINGS

"Some of the really small companies do not have any insurance. A mover's insurance should cover the replacement or repair of items they move and damage," said Woodle. Some companies have a basic coverage. In most cases, the customer can purchase additional insurance for a small fee. Woodle believes the additional insurance is a good investment.

Taking the time to find a quality mover also reduces the risks to your belongings. Woodle recommends asking about employee training and their average time with the company. "Big doesn't necessarily mean better quality. It's the employees that make the difference," said Woodle.

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