

# Moving Up

Tying up Moving Days last-minute loose ends  
Experts offer tips to make things go smoothly

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SPECIAL TO THE RECORD

If you are in the throes of packing, cleaning, closing and moving to new digs, presumably you have already gotten estimates and hired a mover. Although, to hear Cindy Myer of Ridgewood Moving Co. tell it, more people are waiting until the last minute.

"We are getting calls from people who say, 'Can you do it on Saturday?' or 'Can you do it tomorrow?' " Myer said. "We have so many more last-minute people calling. I think they're selling houses and they're happy to sell and want to get out of there."

Myer said the beginning and end of the month get booked the fastest.

"Our Aug. 31 was booked in July or June," she said.

If Moving Day is a week or less away, move consultant Sharon Bregman of Demenager in Teaneck recommends that you:

\* Consider hiring a baby sitter for Moving Day or see whether friends or family can keep the kids and/or pets.

\* Keep a bucket of cleaning supplies to clean out your old place once the movers are done, or hire a cleaner.

\* Set aside a file box that you will carry with you that will contain important papers: school records, insurance policies, pet documents, home purchase/sale documents, mortgage documents, wills, marriage and/or divorce papers, financial records, stock certificates, Social Security cards, passports, birth certificates and medical, dental, prescription and vaccination records.

\* Make sure you have your driver's license, credit cards and checkbook with you on Moving Day.

"Do not count on unpacking everything you will need in the first few days," Bregman said.

On that note, Myer suggests that you have family members pack overnight bags with toiletries, toilet paper, pajamas, a change or two of clothing, snacks, favorite sleep toys and blankets for the kids, baby food, diapers and bottled water.

You might include some basic tools (scissors, screwdriver, hammer, can opener) plus paper plates and plastic cutlery in the parents' bag. And don't forget pooch or kitty: Provide them with an overnight bag with their bowls, food and leashes.

The mover should bring wardrobe boxes on Moving Day and transfer your hanging clothes to the wardrobes. Myer said bedding can be placed at the bottom of those wardrobes, so sheets, pillows and coverlets are immediately available when you get into your new home.

You probably have already done the lion's share of packing. Myer said movers prefer to take responsibility for packing fragile and breakable items such as china and crystal. You may have to involve a third-party service to disassemble and crate big items such as chandeliers, pool tables or a really heavy safe. Get advice in advance from the movers if you need this service.

You should keep separate any items of value or things that you couldn't bear to lose. You can either carry that "valuables" box yourself or carefully

pack the things in a box that you purposely mislabel.

"Never mark a box to indicate valuable or desirable contents," Bregman said. "For example, do not mark a box 'liquor' or 'jewelry' or 'sterling.' Otherwise, the box may not arrive at its new destination."

When the movers have finished, go through each room, the basement, the attic and the garage, and make sure everything that is going has been packed.

"Do not sign any releases without completing this inspection," Bregman said.

Finally, make sure you arrange with utility companies to get final readings and bills from your old place and to get service installed in your new home.

Moving requires a lot of hands-on organization timed to a deadline, and it can be overwhelming.

Myer remembers a move when her crew called and said the clients weren't ready.

"There were dishes in the sink and fish still swimming in the fish tank," Myer said. "It looked as if the customers went to sleep the night before and didn't expect to move the next day."

Myer and her co-worker went over to the house and spent four hours packing so the move could proceed.

But, she said, "The customers had to deal with the fish themselves."