

Tips for Hiring a Moving Company

1. Start looking for movers at least two months before you need to move. Get referrals from family, friends and local real estate agents, and research the companies with organizations such as the Better Business Bureau (bbb.org) and the American Moving and Storage Association (moving.org).
2. Make a list of everything you will need to move. Have potential movers come to your home to review the list, view your belongings and give you a detailed estimate.
3. Compare prices. Make sure you understand the methods used to determine all costs. Verify that the mover is licensed and insured. Find out the procedure for handling any damage to your goods.
4. Do not hire a mover who requires a down payment. Most reputable movers do not demand payment in advance.
5. Read all documents. A moving company must supply you with a copy of your rights, a receipt or bill of lading that specifies the weight or volume of your goods, the origin and destination points, and the number of boxes being transported.
6. Do not sign a blank contract.
7. If you are moving from one state to another, a mover must offer you the option of purchasing full replacement value insurance coverage. Unless you purchase full value coverage, be aware that most company insurance policies base reimbursement on the weight of your goods, typically around 60 cents per pound.

Determining Costs

Intra-state movers (for in-state moves) price moves at either:

- › An hourly labor rate. This may include a minimum charge of two or three hours. Additional charges may be added for large items (pianos, etc.).
- › A flat rate, which will reflect the items to be moved and any special conditions at the pick-up or drop-off point.

Interstate movers (who move goods from one state to another) base their charges on weight. Make sure the moving company does not charge you for the truck weight. Have the company weigh the truck without your merchandise on it, and then ask to see a weight ticket for the truck after it is unloaded.

Additional Information

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