

How To Make Relocating Less Stressful





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Relocation can be an exciting time in one's life. It means starting a new adventure in a new city and/or state. Like any other adventure, lack of preparation and expenses form a natural roadblock to the end result. For some people, planning and logistics are fun. For others, it is more hassle and stress on top of every thing else that is happening in life.

Here are some tips on how to minimize stress during relocation:

1. Think ahead and organize. Packing and unpacking is less than fun. It isn't easy to sort through belongings that have accumulated over the years and it is not necessarily a good idea to transport every thing from one place to another.

Take this opportunity to part with items that are no longer needed. Label or color-code boxes by room so when it is time to unpack, all of the essential items will be right where they are supposed to be.
2. Do some reconnaissance before moving. Research your new location thoroughly, whether in person or online. Learn about the neighborhoods, best restaurants, and proximity to work, shopping or recreation. Every community has a different vibe and researching this ahead of time will go a long way towards helping you feel comfortable in a new location. If you are unable to visit in person, make sure to ask your real estate professional to send you a Relocation Package for the new area.
3. Make a budget for all things related to relocation. Moving is costly. From purchasing moving boxes to transportation costs, the expenses can add up quickly. It does not end there though. Getting settled in a new home is also expensive. Be sure to budget for items that will help you make it through the first few nights like cleaning supplies, toiletries, and food.
4. Determine if moving costs are tax-deductible. Certain criteria must be met in order to get a tax refund on the cost of relocation. Consult a tax professional before the big move so you can prepare all of the necessary information for tax season. Knowing that some money will be finding its way back to your back account can relieve some of the financial burden.
5. Make use of technology. Keep in mind that relocating is not only hard on you. It also takes a toll on your friends and family. Remember to make use of video chat applications that are available on smartphones and tablets. Keeping in touch is a great way to stay grounded as everyone goes through the transition phase together.

For more information about the area you are considering, please contact the Customer Service Team at John L. Scott Real Estate.

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Your Relocation Checklist

Eight Weeks (2 Months) Before

- ☐ **Sort and purge**
Go through each room and sort the items you want to keep and which items you can discard. By not taking items that have little value, the unpacking process will be much easier.
- ☐ **Research moving companies**
There are many moving companies available. Research customer reviews and get online quotes so you can make an informed decision.
- ☐ **Get organized**
Keep all of your moving documents in one place. Whether it is a folder or binder, or an organization app on your mobile device, having every thing in a central location will make life easier.
- ☐ **Start arranging travel to the new location**
If you are flying to a new location, it is best to make airfare reservations early. You will also need to arrange car transport.

Six Weeks (1.5 Months) Before

- ☐ **Gather moving supplies**
Start picking up moving boxes and other packing materials like packing tape, a tape gun, bubble wrap and markers.
- ☐ **Cut back on buying groceries**
Force yourself to eat the food in your refrigerator that you have been pushing aside. You will clean out your fridge while also saving a few dollars by not buying new food.

4 Weeks (1 Month) Before

- ☐ **Choose your mover and confirm the arrangements**
Select a company and get written confirmation of your moving date, costs, and other details.
- ☐ **Begin packing**
Start packing the items that you know you will not use before you move. It is time to start winding down and keeping only the essentials.

Your Relocation Checklist

- ☐ **Change your address with the post office and other businesses**
You can easily change your address and set up mail forwarding through the United States Post Office's website, www.usps.com.
- ☐ **Obtain medical records**
Arrange for your doctor to provide you with your medical records so your new doctor will have your complete history.
- ☐ **Arrange for Temporary Housing if Needed**
If your new residence will not be available when you arrive at your destination, take this time to make temporary arrangements at a hotel.

Two Weeks Before

- ☐ **Start closing local accounts**
If you have a safe deposit box, now would be a good time to remove the contents and close out the account. Also do this with any other local establishment you may have a relationship with. After all, you won't be using their services anymore.
- ☐ **Contact the moving company**
Reconfirm the arrangements.

One Week Before

- ☐ **Refill prescriptions**
Stock up on prescriptions you'll need during the next couple of weeks.
- ☐ **Pack clothes separate from everything else**
Make sure you do not pack all of your belongings in the moving boxes, especially clothes. You will need a few days worth of clean clothes after you reach your destination.

Moving Day

- ☐ **Verify**
Make sure that the moving truck that shows up is from the company you hired. The US Department of Transportation number painted on its side should match the number on the estimate you were given.

Your Relocation Checklist



Take inventory

Make sure you have a list of items that are being shipped so you can determine if anything is missing once the move is complete.

Arrival at Destination



Contact family and friends

Let them know that you have arrived safely at your destination.

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