

Let's face it, moving can be a stressful experience. If you've ever moved, you know that to be true. Right from the start you can get stressed out. The move is only part of it. If you're buying and selling a home at the same time which is usually the case, there is a whole set of circumstances this presents. Moving in general presents some challenges that we need to get through and overcome.



humboldt
relax. and get moving.

Eliminating Stress Before Moving Day

As with any complex situation we find ourselves in, we always have questions that need to be answered and dealing with a moving company is no different. Some of us do not move very often so we find that customers have a number of good questions they ask when they encounter a moving company. Here are some of those common questions and some advice to go along with them;

When do I contact a moving company? You should contact the moving company as early as possible. Many people contact the moving company when their house goes under agreement but we advise otherwise. You should contact the moving company when you decide to put your house on the market if at all possible.

How do I sort through the different bids and not get confused? You should get no more than three bids and be careful about taking the lowest bid. As with many items and services you purchase, you get what you pay for so don't just go by the bottom line price. Be very careful to make sure there is consistency in what is offered. Some bids have packing in them and some do not. The weight in which they quote you could be very different as well. It's also very important to get references and never get a quote off the internet. Always have a representative from the moving company visit your home and do a walk through in person. And if you can arrange it, visit the moving company's facility as well. That will give you a clear picture of how they operate on a day-to-day basis.

How can I reduce the cost of a full service move if I want to do some of the work myself? The obvious way is to pack your items yourself. But be careful if you have the moving company handling and transporting those pre packed items. It may sound counterintuitive but you should have the moving company pack your valuable items. That way, you can be sure that in the event something does happen, you are covered.

How do I know what my rights and responsibilities are? When the initial visit from any moving company happens which is usually at time of estimate, one of the first things they should do is present you with literature that outlines those rights. Those would include everything from the charges for moving, the pickup and delivery of your goods and how to quickly and effectively resolve any dispute that arises.

Do I tip the movers? Sure, if you feel they did a good job. It's a personal preference and there is no industry standard such as tipping wait staff. Tip what you feel is appropriate. Many customers feed the crew day of and again that's a personal choice. If you feel you have gotten great service, yes, then you can show your appreciation.

Jim Sullivan is president of Humboldt Storage and Moving of greater Boston. Humboldt's motto is Relax. And get moving. The entire Humboldt teams goes to great lengths to minimize the stress of moving. Jim can be reached at www.humboldt.com or 800-225-9845.