

Freeze the Stress: Winter Moving Tips

Getting ready to move this winter? While it may not be as easy a move as in other seasons, with a little preparation you can accomplish a move that goes off without a hitch. For some helpful tips, read on.

- **Be prepared to be flexible** – Check the weather in the days leading up to your move. If a storm is forecasted for your moving day, consider rescheduling your move date. Get any pre-move errands completed in advance of your move, so you don't get stuck trying to accomplish them in bad weather at the last minute.
- **Prepare both homes for winter moving** – Ensure both your old and new homes have clear, wide paths for moving, plastic sheeting to protect floors, and if it will be dark during any part of your move, check that the exterior lighting works, and consider headlamps.
- **Protect belongings** – Temperature changes from the warmth of your home to the cold of the moving truck can cause items like glass to break and electronics to malfunction, so secure these items according to the manufacturer's instructions and have them loaded onto the truck last or transport them in your own vehicle to keep a closer eye on them.
- **Organize utilities** – Schedule utility hook-up at your new home before you move so you aren't stuck without the ability to control indoor temperatures in the height of winter.



- **Prepare your vehicle** – Especially if you are making a long-distance move, make sure your vehicle has been serviced recently and is stocked with gas, washer fluid, first aid and emergency kits, and blankets.
- **Show your movers some appreciation** – A warm drink and something to eat for your movers will be a nice gesture to show you care.

Don't let Mother Nature make moving more stressful than it needs to be, and plan ahead if you have a winter move coming up.

Storing Your Stuff: Short-Term Storage Solutions



When listing or renovating your home, you may need to move some of your belongings into storage. Aside from the homes of friends and family, you can also choose to use self-storage facilities, portable storage containers, and storage in transit (movers move stuff to their facility for you).

How do you know which option is right for you? Consider:

- **Size and shape of space** – If you have a lot of stuff, self-storage facilities come in many different sizes and shapes. For storing items like furniture, electronics, or musical instruments for long periods in extreme temperatures consider climate-controlled storage.
- **Location and access** – If accessing your belongings easily and frequently is important, consider an on-site storage container. Or, if you just want ease of access, consider facilities with drive-up storage for easy loading and unloading, but also

check how flexible they are in terms of gaining access to the facility.

- **Cost** – Get quotes from several companies. Typically, payments are month-to-month.
- **Security** – If you are keeping valuables in a facility, consider one with gates, cameras, and an on-site manager, and for storage containers, consider having a security camera for monitoring.

To avoid potential headaches, check company reviews before choosing your storage provider.

Think, Act... Live!

"It is good to have an end to journey toward, but it is the journey that matters in the end." Ursula K. Le Guin

"I'll walk where my own nature would be leading; it vexes me to choose another guide." Emily Brontë