

10 EASY WAYS TO SAVE ON YOUR MOVE.

Moving isn't just disruptive. It's expensive. And it doesn't just cost you money; it costs you time. So any way you can save either of those in the process is a bonus. **Here are ten:**

1

Try to move during off-season months.

Summer is the busiest time to move, so if you have control over your move date, aim for one of the off-season months (September until May) and you could save 20-30%. And pick a weekday in the middle of the month.

2

Ask for boxes at office supply, grocery and furniture stores.

Boxes aren't cheap, but if you're resourceful you might be able to get them for free. Most local businesses, like supermarkets, office supply stores, bookstores and specialized liquor stores have more cardboard boxes than they need and typically break them down for recycling at the end of the day. All you have to do is ask the store manager politely and you may walk out with as many boxes as you can carry. Just make sure they're sturdy and safe enough to hold whatever you plan to put in them.

3

Use socks, t-shirts, towels and linens as packing supplies.

Don't buy more wrapping and filling material than you need. Use newspapers, linens or even clean clothes to protect your stuff in transit. They're headed to your new place anyway, and they're perfect for protecting glassware or filling small gaps in packing boxes. Just be careful the newsprint doesn't leave ink stains on your stuff.

4

If you're not already covered for it, buy moving insurance.

Your existing home or renter's insurance policy may already cover a move, but be sure to double check. If it doesn't, it may be a wise investment. Also, be sure to photograph and document all your belongings before you move in case you need to file an insurance claim afterward.

5

Decide which moving option (DIY, pod or professional) works best for your needs.

Make sure to compare ALL the costs of moving before deciding which approach is best for you. Doing it yourself may seem like the least-expensive way to go, but you may wind up spending more in time, materials and rentals than you anticipated. Each approach has its advantages. Just be sure to rationally compare all the options (and costs) before you decide.

6

Don't take everything.

Before you start packing, ask yourself if you REALLY need all your old belongings. If not, donate or sell them. You can probably get a tax deduction for the things you donate, or you may wind up with enough money from selling your old stuff to pay for the move!

7

Deduct your moving expenses.

Your moving expenses, including truck rental, moving company, gas, boxes, supplies and mileage, may be tax deductible. So make sure you keep all the receipts and documentation related to your move (including your bill of lading and payment receipts) and keep them together in a safe, secure place. If you want to claim your move on your next tax return, you'll need all the paperwork.

8

Go grocery shopping the day you move into your new home.

Stock your fridge, pantry and closet as soon as possible. You'll need food and drinks to keep your energy up, cleaning products to get your new place spic and span, and plenty of other new-home essentials. And take-out is expensive.

9

Shop around for a cable, internet and phone bundle.

You may not be using any of these services anymore, but if you are, you'll probably save some money by bundling them with your new provider. Ask for the individual service and bundled prices before you buy.

10

Find a physician or specialist before you move.

You don't want your first health-related stop in your new town to be a costly visit to an urgent care, retail clinic or emergency room. Try to find a trustworthy doctor on your insurance plan and a good nearby pharmacy before you move. It will save you time and money.

To find a provider near your new home, visit mountcarmelmedicalgroup.com.

