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## The Moving Prep Guide

Brought to you by Man and Dolly



Any singular task during the moving process, with focus, is easy! What makes moving so taxing is that you have work and life in transition. The anticipation of the end and comfort in your new place tugs at you! You have to temporarily turn into a mover/logistics manager, which can drive the most capable individuals insane and rendered ineffective. Armed with the tools laid out here and available on our website, you'll have the raw material to have a smooth move! Let's dive in together!!!...

→ **The Prep:** How you enter this move is how you'll come out! I always like to say to moving clients "Let's Hope for the Best, Prepare for the worst, and expect nothing!"

### ◆ Mindset Game Plan

- **Don't underestimate your Move-** The Most common mistake people make when moving is thinking they have less than they actually have, they're more prepared than they are, or underestimating how long it takes to pack, how taxing it is to move. A very common mistake people make is attempting to "make it easier" by taking a thousand small trips instead of one big trip. This is the opposite of ripping the band-aid, and brings the process to a snail's pace.
- **Don't Choose to Hire based Solely off Price-** Unless you're prepared to accept the heightened risk of negative results. This doesn't necessarily mean you have to spend a ton either! Use the method at the end of this guide to make a balanced and calculated decision given all the variables.
- **Be prepared to take responsibility for results-** Time and time again, people expect "too much" without communicating expectations, and don't take accountability. This may sound backwards because if you hire or tell someone to do something it should just get done, right? When I go through a move, the stress and pain of a lesser result is not worth me having someone to blame, so I double check to make sure that my expectations are clear with me and the person/business, I make sure that we're on

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schedule, I anticipate issues before they arise, and I do what I can to prepare with the hope of the best result in mind and if things are less than Ideal I accept the responsibility of the results. I Still hold people accountable, yet I take responsibility as the designated project Manager of my move(Which is your temporary role during the moving process).

- **Moving is a stress management game:** the calmer you are the better off you are to deal with whatever comes your way, pace yourself. I always say, "It's better to have more and need less than to have less and need more!" It's no good to be making last-minute runs and errands for things at the end; it's best to make sure everything is front-loaded heavily from the beginning.

→ **Game Plan Essence:** Here is a breakdown of the Raw Data you need to make your sound decisions for your upcoming move.

◆ **Moving Options:** These are the various ways you can move from Point A to Point B.

- **Full Service Movers-** This is where you have movers come in and do everything from packing to wrapping furniture, to getting you to Point B, and unpacking and setting you up at the new spot. It's also called full service, even if you do all the packing and unpacking, then they do the wrapping of furniture and odds and ends like pictures as well as assembly and disassembly. **\*\*Some Full Service Companies also offer storage options.**
- **Labor Movers-** This is professional man-power to fill the void anywhere necessary, most people will use Labor movers to help load a Truck, or a Storage Container, Or Unload only when you loaded yourself etc. This is the option where you have them take over wherever it is needed.
- **DIY Moving-** This is just you and the family and friends doing everything that movers would, yourself. **\*\*\*Lots of free helpful tips on our [YouTube](#)**

◆ **The Following Options** are for those who are either flexible with their timeline or have a longer gap between leaving one place and moving into another.

- **Storage Facilities-** These are the physical storage locations and Are great for just about any storage needs over a month. However, oftentimes some of these will also have deals where they offer the first month free and all you have to do is pay for insurance for the

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month(results may vary, though the fees breakdown to only being a small fraction of monthly rent).

- **Storage Container(PODS)**-These are containers that vary in size from as small as 7' to big as 16'
  - **Side Note\*\*\*** Keep in mind that the Width and the Height really make a world of difference when it comes to getting the most out of the space.
- **LTL(Less Than Load) Shipping Companies**-These Are typically always 28' Semi Truck Trailers(Much taller on the inside than any Penske or U-Haul Truck) that are dropped off where you need them to be self-loaded, then they are picked up and dropped off at the next location. They're called LTL because typically you will pay only for what you use, so if you use only 4', you only pay for that much, if you use the entire truck, then you pay for it.
  - **Side Note\*\*\*** Keep in mind that when you don't load the entire truck/trailer, then your stuff is on that truck with other people's belongings(separated by a barrier).
- **\*\*\*During the Process just know that your efforts/input saves money:** As you're planning your move, and keeping in mind what your budget is, know and acknowledge everything that you can physically do, are willing to do, and won't/can't do so you can factor that all in, knowing that the more you do, the more you save. For example: The difference between me charging for a local job, which is typically under a thousand dollars, however, if I move them out of state it then becomes several thousands because I'll be gone for Days, so if you can drive from one state to another, or pack your own house, those will be the biggest money savers during a move(amoungst many other smaller things that add up).

#### → Tool To Win

- ◆ **How to Pick Good Companies:** During this process, you'll need to utilize a bunch of different companies, from Movers to Storage facilities, to Storage Container companies, realtors, etc. Here is a breakdown on how I ensure that I find the right company:
  - **Communication is key**, if it seems like a business has systems in place to take your money but not deal with you or your needs Or problems/issues(if any) to provide a quality service to you then it's best to find a different option. In short, if it's too hard to get a response( automated or human), then they're not going to conduct

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business well; communication is a good metric that has been an effective indicator of quality. I always make a call to ask some questions and see what their people are like. It's a great indicator that will also let you know how they'll deal with issues too.

- **Review Research** - I look at the overall score. If it's too low, I move on; if it's a 4+, I look at how many reviews there are and the type of company it is and decide from there. Then I look at a couple of recent good reviews that are detailed\*, then I look at a handful of their bad/worst reviews, see if they're recent bad reviews, and judge whether it was those individuals being unreasonable(Which I'll see fairly often, then I make a decision.
- **FOR MOVERS I GO DEEPER** - I like to look at pictures so I can see how they take care of their clients/customers' furniture, are they wrapped up, does it look like they take care of furniture the way that you want your furniture taken care of? Is the team in uniform? Do they look like I would want them around?.. The Next thing I do to go deeper is I search for them just to see how visible they are across all platforms. The more visible, the less likely they are to have something to hide, and the more to gain from providing quality service, a business with a reputation to protect is a great business to do business with, always!
- **GENERAL WORD OF CAUTION** - This is especially true with Movers. But also applies to other LARGE COMPANIES, it's hard to maintain quality, and these big companies tend to favor their income over the customer experience(this is from what I've experienced and heard stories about). This isn't me bashing them, but for example,I do business with U-Haul regularly. They are consistently great to work with; however, every now and then, I'll get a truck with a defect. It's rare in my experience, but it's not the same for other people. Because they do so much business and have so many hands that bring the service to you, you run a risk of being that 1 in a thousand, but with a big company, you also get the resources, so they're typically more equipped to make things right, so I'll let you do with that as you choose.

Moving is hard, and stressful, this will help you to go into the process with the right mindset, and tools to come out on top. If you need guidance([Guides](#)) through the

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process of moving, our [Moving Liaison](#) with Man and Dolly would be happy to help you through the process with **over 10 years of practical moving experience!**