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9 Secrets Most Movers Don't Want You to Know



 **ANCHOR**
MOVING SYSTEMS

W144 N5800 Shawn Circle
Menomonee Falls,
Wisconsin 53051

800.558.MOVE
anchormovingsystems.com





Moving your office or household can be a difficult, time-consuming and costly process. It doesn't have to be. In most cases, hiring a moving company to assist you can greatly reduce the stress, hassle and overall cost of your move. But with so many movers out there competing for your business, how do you choose the right one? More importantly: how do you know you're getting the best deal?

Here are 9 secrets to help you avoid common moving mistakes and manage the cost of your move:

1 Initial Cost Analysis

Do you really need a mover? Depending on the size and distance of your move, it might be more cost effective to do it yourself. When deciding whether to handle the move yourself or hire a moving company, it's best to start with an in-depth cost analysis. Just be sure to take every factor into consideration when drawing up your DIY budget (time lost, insurance costs, storage, hotel rates, additional labor, truck rental, peace of mind, etc.) or you may find yourself overwhelmed and under-prepared when the time comes to actually make your move.



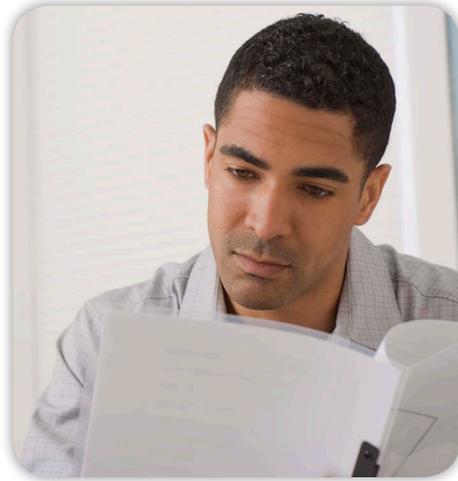
2 Smart Planning Will Save You Time, Money and Worry

Regardless of the type or size of move, nothing can save you time, money and headaches like planning. But, having the right resources and checklists to make sure the time and effort you put into planning is not wasted . . . is just smart. That's why we have created some of the best Moving Guides and Checklists available. They are yours free of charge. Whether you are moving a residence or a business, simply go to our website and download the tools you need. Plus, you can count on us to be there to help you with any questions or problems.

3 Choose The Right Mover For The Job

There are a lot of professional movers out there who claim they are qualified to handle office moves and other commercial relocations. When it comes to moving your critical office infrastructure, don't settle for a mover without extensive experience in this area. What looks like savings on an estimate might turn into a substantial loss due to equipment damage, business downtime or additional hidden fees.





4 Request A Binding “Not-To-Exceed” Price Guarantee

One of the most common problems most people and businesses encounter in the moving process is a final bill that’s considerably higher than the original estimate. Ironically, this is very often a result of going with the lowest quote and not reading the fine print. Be sure to partner with a moving company that provides guarantees against exceeding their initial estimate. Of course, in some cases, cost discrepancies are the result of inadequate estimating information on the part of the home or business owner. That’s why it’s important to provide as much information as possible for each company you request an estimate from. The more accurate you are in your descriptions, the more accurate your estimates will be.

5 Weigh Your Options

Since many moving companies base their costs on the overall weight and mileage of your move, it’s often a good idea to base your estimate decision on the best weight-to-cost ratio. Then, in order to avoid additional charges, ask to witness the weighing of the truck on moving day. When you tell a moving company that you want to exercise this right, they are required by law to tell you when and where the van will be weighed – usually at a state-certified site on the outskirts of town. Go to the site before the van picks up your goods, watch it being weighed and request a copy of the weight certificate. Then return to the site after your goods are loaded, watch the scales and get another written record of the added weight.

6 Insurance & Licensing

All moving companies are regulated by some combination of federal, state and local laws. These laws vary widely at the state level and some states (such as Alaska and Delaware) do not require moving companies to have separate licenses. Movers who operate across state lines are required to be licensed by the U.S. Department of Transportation, which does not regulate local movers. When gathering estimates, be sure to verify that each company’s licenses are current.

Also, check to make sure your movers are bonded and insured. This provides some assurance that the company is legitimate and has the necessary financial stability in case you need to file a claim at any point. Ask to see each moving company’s insurance certificate. This certificate serves as proof that the company’s insurance provider is liable in the event of any moving mishaps, such as property damage or worker injury. Don’t deal with a mover who doesn’t have good insurance coverage, especially workers’ compensation. If you have any doubts about the authenticity of the certificate, check with the insurance company listed.





7 Background Checks

Price isn't the only consideration when it comes to choosing a mover. Extremely low bids are often an indication of desperation. What's more, some unscrupulous moving companies will bid low to seal the deal and then build in hidden costs and add-ons once your belongings are loaded on the truck, effectively holding you hostage to whatever price they choose to charge. Before making your final choice, investigate all potential movers through the U.S. Department of Transportation, the Better Business Bureau and websites like MovingScam.com.

8 Time Your Move

Choosing the best time for your move can save you money. June and July are generally the busiest times for most moving companies. The first few days and the last few days of every month are also high-demand times. If you have some flexibility, talk to your Anchor representative to help you plan your move to take advantage of off peak schedules and pricing. If you're willing to work within their timeframe, it can save you money.

9 Make Sure You're Ready To Go

Packing up your home or office yourself and having everything ready to go before your mover arrives can save you or your company significant costs. Most moving companies charge extra for packing services, even if it's just a few last-minute items. If you have furniture that needs to be disassembled, be sure to request that this service be built into your initial estimate.



If you're feeling overwhelmed by all the details of your upcoming home or office move, consider hiring a trustworthy and qualified moving company to help. Anchor Moving Systems has the experience and expertise to make your move smooth and easy, providing superior packaging, proven techniques and friendly service to suit your schedule and needs. Best of all, we don't believe in keeping any secrets. When you partner with Anchor for your executive relocation, we walk you through our free and easy, comprehensive estimating system to help you avoid surprises.

To learn more, visit anchormovingsystems.com or call 414.355.MOVE (6683).

