

## Moving Day Survival Tips

Moving is extremely high in stress, and moving day is the most high stress part of any move. However, taking care of a few details in advance can make moving day much less of a strain. Here are three battle tested moving tips that will make moving day far more bearable.

Put together a survival kit.

On the last day, you will have one last little pile of belongings to pack: all the bedding, toiletries, dishes, cups, pans, and little details (alarm clock, iPod, box of favorite tea) that you used up to the last minute. Your impulse will be to sweep the pile haphazardly into any half full moving boxes you still have lying around. Don't give in to it! All the things you needed when you were finished packing your old house will be the things you will need most as you unpack in the new house. Rather than making yourself root through a dozen moving boxes half full of things you don't yet need, put all the moving essentials into their own boxes. Write "Moving Kit" or "Open First" on the boxes. When you unpack, make sure they go into their own room and are not buried by a stack of other boxes. You will find that settling into your new home goes faster when you have your moving survival kit ready to deploy as soon as you move in.

Make some ready to eat meals.

Too often, moving involves endless stops at donut shops and convenience stores for whatever foodlike substances you can scavenge. By the end of the day, everyone is overcaffeinated, full of starch and grease, and cranky. To prevent that, spend the night before packing ready to go meals that do not need reheating. Even something as simple as a peanut butter sandwich, a bag of chips, and a 100 calorie pack of cookies can do wonders for your and your moving companions tempers.

Prepare to camp.

You were careful and had all the utilities turned on days in advance. When you walk in the front door, you expect everything, from the electricity and gas right down to the Internet, to be working. Somehow, it never quite happens that way. The phone company thinks you moved to Middleton, not Mettleton, or the electric company took down the wrong charge card information, or the gas company needs you to be at home so the meter reader can get into the basement. Prepare for these small moving emergencies in advance. Pack flashlights, candles, matches, and warm bedding where they will be easy to find in your moving kit, fully charge your cell phone before you leave the old house, and pack a stash of food that does not need to be heated. Have a list of all the utilities contact information and your account numbers so that when you need to get something turned on right away, the numbers are at your fingertips.

## About the Author

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