

# Preplanning makes moving less painful

By Reader's Digest  
For AP Newsfeatures

If a move is in your future, here are some tips for planning and packing that can help you survive it with less trauma.

**Planning:** Before moving, measure the rooms in your new home to be sure your appliances and furniture will fit into allotted spaces. Also measure all doors to be sure everything will go through them.

If you don't know how to disconnect major appliances such as washing machines and kitchen ranges, arrange with a plumber, utility company or an appliance service company to do it. Also arrange for these appliances to be reconnected in your new home. Movers will not do this nor will they take down a television antenna.

If you are moving to a new city, get summaries of your dental and medical records to give to your new health care professionals.

Send out change-of-address notices to periodicals, family and friends as soon as you've confirmed your move.

Change the address on your bank and charge accounts or open new accounts if more convenient.

Make the move easier for your child by having a goodbye party for the child's special friends. Have the guests exchange addresses and telephone numbers with your child. When packing, load the child's things last so they will be the first things unpacked.

**Packing:**

Make a floor plan of your new home and label each room with a name and number. As you pack, label each box accordingly. Keep track of the number of boxes for each room and mark any items you will need as soon as you arrive. Move these and important documents yourself. Make an inventory of each box.

Clothing and linens can be packed in dresser drawers, but not too densely. Rent wardrobe boxes for hanging clothes.

Pack books and records in small boxes so they are light enough to lift.

To protect breakables, line the bottom of the box with wads of crumpled newspaper and wrap each piece in newspaper. Pack heaviest items in the bottom and add crumpled paper between the layers.

Don't stack plates; stand them on edge in a well-cushioned box.

Stand mirrors and pictures in cartons; protect them with layers of paper and separate them with corrugated cardboard.

Wrap lampshades in clean paper and pack them in cartons separate from the lamps.

After electric power has been disconnected from major appliances such as refrigerators, freezers and washing machines, drain off any water. Clean each appliance inside and out and leave it open to air dry for a day or two. Be careful no children play in or around these appliances; they can be very dangerous.

After they are dry, tape doors and lids shut with a strong tape such as filament tape, and tape the power cord to the back of the appliance. When moving, protect the appliance with blankets.

## Moving:

Whether you hire a mover or rent a truck, get comparative prices beforehand. Always get written confirmation for every step of the move.

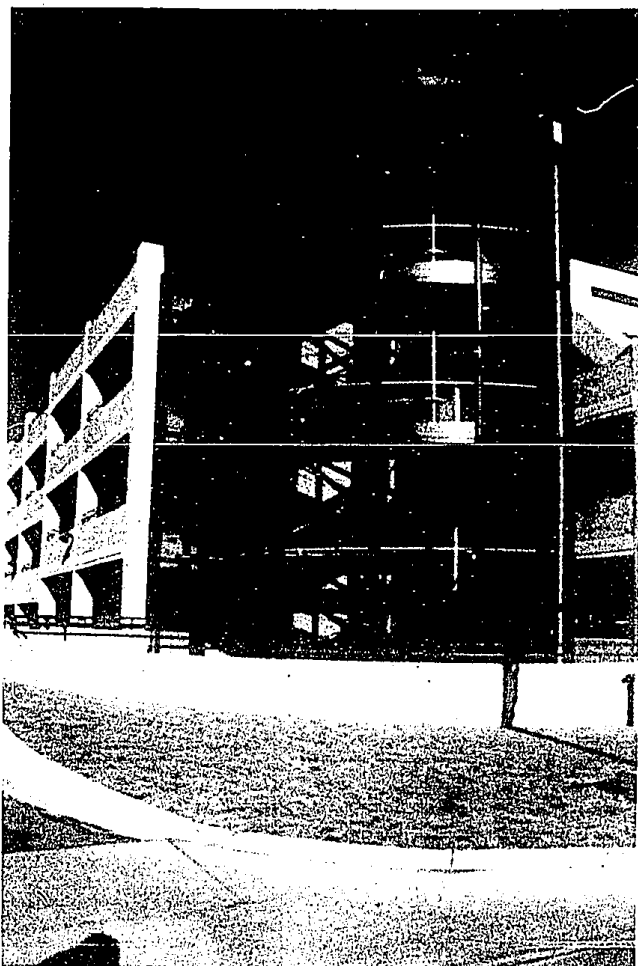
Hire a professional mover. If you are moving within your state, seek out a local mover with a good reputation. Their charges are generally lower than interstate movers.

If your move crosses state lines, check the moving company's performance record through the Interstate Commerce Commission. Written estimates are not binding; ask the ICC how often the company's estimates are within 10 percent of their final charges. The ICC maintains offices in most major cities. Look under "U.S. Government Offices" in the telephone book.

When everything has been unloaded, make sure it's all in good condition before signing the mover's inventory. Make any claims for missing or damaged property as soon as possible.

Moving yourself may save hundreds of dollars, but beware of such hidden costs as mileage rates, drop-off or overtime charges on rented trucks and rental of dollies, pads and packing cases. The truck rental company should help you estimate the size vehicle you will need. Remember to pack carefully. When you move yourself, you pay for any damages.

(Need help on a home repair or improvement project? Write Reader's Digest, P.O. Box 700, Pleasantville, N.Y. 10570-7000. Suggestions and tips will be offered in future columns.)



Color can be used to accent and flesh out even the most mundane architecture — case in point, the new Birmingham parking structure on Chester Street. Here, dark green turns the generally overlooked stairways and railings into a focal point.

## Color can add drama

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element — they actually increase the heart rate.

Cool colors, like blue and green, have a calming effect, he said.

THE REVIVAL of color can be partially traced to the introduction of new materials, Blair said. Multicolored glass, glazed tiles, dyes in bricks, and metallic panels can be made in just about any color, he said.

New technology will enhance architecture, he said.

Already, architects are using computers to make quick color changes — and even more fundamental alterations — to designs that would have taken several architects days or even weeks to complete.

"People don't want to wait — they want it now," Blair said.

**HOLOGRAMS, NEW materials** and new processes will permit architects and clients to choose colors more easily because in most cases cost won't be a factor, he said.

Architects usually suggest colors, but clients can take a hand in the decision making process as well, Blair said.

"Some clients have more to say than others," he said, can even be made to order.

"You bring in a tiny chip of paint, and they can match a metal panel to it," he said.

**ALTHOUGH COLOR** is a key component of architecture, form and materials play a significant role in what message a building conveys as well, Blair said.

Shape, lighting and texture can also affect the way color is perceived, Blair said.

A building's surroundings can also affect the choice of color.

In urban areas, it is much more likely that buildings will be white and gray colored; in suburban areas, buildings have more leeway.

Certain colors are good for certain shapes, Blair said.

For example, a rectangular building may look better in red, or a circular building may look better in blue.

## Schoolcraft design show

Registration still is being taken for the Metropolitan Home Magazine "Design 100" show at the Michigan Design Center in Troy on Friday, April 27.

Sponsored by Schoolcraft College, the assemblage of 100 best designs is open to the public.

A number of prominent designers are represented in the Michigan Design Center showrooms, including Jay Spectre, Mario Buita, John Saladino, and Cranbrook's Katherine and Michael McCoy.

Fee for the program is \$55 per person including lunch. The program will take place from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

For more information or to register, call Schoolcraft College at 462-4448.

## Padded easy chair replaced benches

From Country Home  
for AP Newsfeatures

Before the advent of the easy chair in Europe, most people were forced to find solace on a wooden bench or hard stool.

According to Country Home magazine, the answer was something completely padded and upholstered: the easy chair.

It was a strange contrivance: a wood carved frame with arms, webbed and padded and covered in fabric or needlework. Like a present-day recliner, its back often was adjustable. Because such a chair was considered to be informal furniture, it was relegated to the bedroom or closet.

Eventually, some clever upholsterer added cheeks, or wings, to the chair to ward off drafts.

By the 18th century the easy chair was a popular item and was out of the closet and into the sitting rooms of the comfort-conscious middle class on both sides of the Atlantic.

As the century turned and the 1800s entered, this comfy chair was considered outmoded and a bit stuffy. Not until America celebrated its centennial did the easy chair regain favor. Today the wing chair remains a mainstay of traditional decor.

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