

Get a move on when it comes to packing your house

With organization, planning and some muscle, moving yourself to a new home can be possible and easier. Most of the supplies you'll need — cartons, padding, clean paper, tape — can be purchased or rented from a truck rental agency. Here are some moving tips:

■ **Measure space.** Before moving, measure the rooms in your new home to be sure that your appliances and furniture will fit into allotted spaces. Measure all doors

to be sure that everything will go through. Make a floor plan of your new home and label each room with a name and number.

■ **Appliances.** Arrange with your plumber, utility company or appliance service shop to disconnect major appliances such as washing machines and kitchen ranges. (Keep in mind that movers will not do this, nor will they take down television antennas.) Have this done several days before moving, and be sure any water is

drained off.

Clean each appliance inside and out and leave it open for a day or two. Then tape its doors and lids shut with a strong filament tape and tape the power cord to the back of the appliance. Protect the appliance with blankets or pads. Note that some appliances, such as washing machines, may require special untreating to withstand the move; check your owner's manual for each appliance.

■ **Truck rental:** Before you rent a truck, get comparative prices. Moving yourself may save hundreds of dollars, but beware of such hidden costs as mileage rates, drop-off charges, overtime charges and rental of dollies, pads and packing cases.

A truck rental agency should provide guidelines to help you take an inventory of your possessions and estimate the size vehicle you will need. Find out the truck's capacity in cubic feet, not

just length. The rental agency's literature should also tell you how to pack.

■ **Packing:** A move to a new home is an ideal time to ruthlessly sort and throw out. Remember to give good, usable items to a local charity.

As you pack, label each box with the destination room name

and number. Take an inventory of each box and keep a list of the boxes for each room. Separate into marked cartons those items that you will need as soon as you arrive. Designate a specific delivery location for these few special boxes.

Pack carefully — when you See **PACKING**, 4F

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