

NEW HOME GUIDE

GTA Edition

//INDUSTRY OUTLOOK

Make your move a smart one

» by **HUGH HERON**

In June, we start to see more moving trucks on the road than any other time of the year. It's only logical that people move during the summer. Kids are out of school, the weather is warm and families can get settled before the fall. Whichever time of year you move, the more organized you are, the better. Whether you hire a professional mover to pack your belongings or do it yourself, my first piece of advice for a smooth move is to de-clutter and get rid of things you really don't need.

This is a great time to practice the "reduce, reuse and recycle" practice for environmental responsibility. You probably have clothing that no longer fits your body or tastes, as well as toys and clothes the children have outgrown. Knickknacks, lamps, furniture, dishes,

electronics... each time you put your hand on something, think "Do I really want or need this at my new place?"

If the answer is "no" and the thing is still usable, you have a lot of options. You can try to sell it online or even give it away via freecycle.org. This amazing website enables you to key in the town and province you live in and donate items you are willing to offer someone for free, as long as they come and pick it up. It's also a great way to pick up used items you may need at your destination. Of course, you might have family members or friends who can use your stuff. Think about places such as Habitat for Humanity, Value Village and Hospital Auxiliary second-hand shops that can sell your items to help a good cause.

If you have bought a new home or condominium suite, you have the advantage of a floorplan that can really help you decide what to keep and what to get rid of. Measure your large items and make sure they will fit comfortably in the spaces you have to work with. This can save you headaches on moving day, and again, eliminates transporting items for no reason. Spend some time with the floorplan and envision how you would like each room to look.

As for the move itself, go online and Google "moving checklist" to find out what you should do when leading up to the big day. If you plan to move this summer and need to book a moving company, do it sooner rather than later. As I mentioned, we are getting to prime moving season, so you want to be sure you have that taken care of. Even if you plan to move yourself, you will want to book your van/truck early to avoid disappointment. If you are packing yourself, consider stopping by a professional moving company and purchasing packing supplies. Using strong, uniformly sized boxes and large, clean paper can make a big difference in loading the truck and making sure everything gets to the other end in one piece. Use common sense. Pack heavy items like books in smaller boxes so whoever ends up carrying them won't buckle under the weight. Place a lot of packing material around fragile items and mark them so the person moving the box knows to be especially careful.

Whether your residential destination is a new home or a resale residence, you will feel better in a place that is uncluttered. Bring the items that will make you feel "at home" right away, and enjoy the process of arranging each room for comfort and looks. An organized move is a happy experience, and only you can figure out what to sort, pitch, give away and sell.



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