Holiday Moving Guide: What Homeowners Should Know Before Moving Day

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Moving during the holidays can be more complicated than many families expect. Between winter weather, real estate closings, holiday business schedules and long-distance delivery arrangements, homeowners often discover that planning a move involves much more than reserving a truck.

Elite Moving & Storage, a woman-owned moving and storage company based in Illinois, is sharing practical advice informed by the questions customers regularly ask when preparing for residential and long-distance moves.

One concern comes up repeatedly: what happens when moving plans change?

A family may have movers scheduled just before Christmas, only to learn that their home closing has been postponed. Someone relocating across the country may need their furniture before starting a new job in January. Another homeowner may discover that their condominium building does not permit moving on the selected date.

These situations are reminders that the most important part of holiday moving is often preparation for the unexpected.

Holiday Schedules Can Affect More Than the Moving Company

Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's Day and other holidays may affect the operating hours of real estate offices, building management companies, storage facilities and other businesses involved in a relocation.

Homeowners should confirm access to both properties before finalizing their moving date.

For apartment and condominium moves, this may include reserving an elevator, arranging loading dock access or obtaining a certificate of insurance.

It is also worth asking the moving company about rescheduling procedures before the move is booked.

Winter Weather Can Complicate Local and Long-Distance Moves

Snow, freezing rain and icy conditions can make moving more difficult, particularly when walkways, stairs or driveways are not properly cleared.

For interstate relocations, weather conditions along the transportation route can affect delivery even when the origin and destination have clear skies.

Homeowners can help by preparing safe access to their property, arranging truck parking and discussing weather-related procedures with their moving company.

Important documents, medications, clothing and several days of essential belongings should travel with the family rather than being packed on the moving truck.

Understand When Your Belongings Will Arrive

Delivery timing is one of the most important subjects to discuss before a long-distance move.

Customers should understand whether their agreement includes a specific delivery commitment or an agreed delivery window.

They should also ask whether their belongings will travel on a dedicated truck or as part of a consolidated shipment.

For interstate moves, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration provides consumer guidance about moving estimates, contracts and delivery arrangements.

Getting these details in writing can help prevent misunderstandings, especially during holiday periods when schedules may be less flexible.

What Happens If a Closing Date Changes?

Real estate transactions do not always close as scheduled.

If a homeowner must leave one property before the new residence becomes available, temporary storage may be necessary.

Before moving day, customers should ask whether storage is available, what it costs, how belongings are protected and how final delivery will be arranged.

Discussing these options early can prevent a delayed closing from becoming a much larger problem.

Is Winter Moving Less Expensive?

Winter can be a less busy season for some moving companies, but moving during the holidays does not automatically mean lower prices.

Costs depend on distance, shipment size, labor, packing requirements, access conditions and the services requested.

Customers should request written estimates and ask about possible charges for stairs, long carries, packing materials, waiting time, storage and specialty items.

For interstate moves, it is also important to understand the difference between binding and non-binding estimates.

Five Questions to Ask Before Booking a Holiday Move

1. Are you available on my preferred moving date?

Confirm the moving company's schedule and check for building or property restrictions.

2. What happens if severe weather delays the move?

Ask about communication, rescheduling and any potential additional charges.

3. When should I expect my belongings to arrive?

Understand the agreed delivery dates or window and how updates will be provided.

4. What happens if my home closing is postponed?

Discuss rescheduling policies and temporary storage options.

5. What services are not included in my estimate?

Ask about packing, stairs, parking restrictions, long carries, storage and special handling.

Planning Ahead Makes a Difference

After nearly two decades in the moving industry, Elite Moving & Storage has seen how much uncertainty can affect a family's moving experience.

Customers want to know that their belongings will be handled carefully, that schedules are clearly communicated and that someone will be available to answer questions if circumstances change.

The company provides local and long-distance moving, professional packing, specialized handling and storage services, using its own moving crews and trucks.

Additional moving information is available at Elite Moving & Storage.

Regardless of which moving company a homeowner chooses, preparation and communication remain essential.

The most useful question before booking a holiday move may not be simply, "How much will it cost?"

It may be, "What happens if our plans change?"

About Elite Moving & Storage

Elite Moving & Storage is a woman-owned moving and storage company headquartered in Lincolnwood, Illinois. The company has served the Chicago area for nearly two decades and provides residential and commercial moving, local and long-distance relocation, packing, specialized handling and climate-controlled storage.

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