

# Your big move

## ***Plan ahead for a stress free move***

### **Two to three months before**

- Get estimates from at least 3 moving companies. If you're planning a "do it yourself" move during the "busy season" keep in mind that rental trucks should be booked well in advance as well.

### **Eight weeks before**

- Take care of change of address with Canada Post. Their site is accessible directly from my web site ("Useful Links" page).
- Notify anyone else who delivers products to your home on a regular basis.

### **Six weeks before**

- If you are moving from another city review with your doctor the names and dosages of any renewal medications you will require and make appropriate arrangements with pharmacy.

### **Four weeks before**

- Contact all utility companies for your old and new addresses to arrange for service to be disconnected and hooked up. They may include Bell Canada, Gaz Met, Hydro Quebec, internet service providers, television cable companies, alarm company. Again, most of these companies can be accessed directly from my web site.
- Contact your credit card providers, governments (Provincial and Federal), your friends, Licence Bureau, Gazette, your doctors, insurance companies, etc.
- Don't forget to also make the address change for your Medicare cards, magazine subscriptions, etc.
- Make arrangements at your bank to transfer accounts to a branch close to your new home.
- Check with your insurance company to discontinue coverage at the old address and begin coverage at new one.
- Make sure you have enough boxes for your packing.

### **Three weeks before**

- Make arrangements for young children and pets to be cared for on moving day.
- Pack things you won't need during the coming weeks such as books, fancy dishes, extra sets of dishes, blankets, bedding and linens.

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**STEVEN BARRETT**  
REAL ESTATE BROKER | COURTIER IMMOBILIER

Cell: 514.983.8485  
stevenbarrett.realestate@gmail.com  
www.stevenbarrett.ca

**B | L | V | D**

**BOULEVARD**  
AGENCE IMMOBILIÈRE | REAL ESTATE AGENCY

111 - 4030 boul. de la Côte-Vertu  
Saint-Laurent, QC H4R 1V4  
Office: 514.944.BLVD  
Fax: 514.313.5777

### **Two weeks before**

- Cardboard wardrobes are terrific for transporting clothing on hangers.
- Make sure you have plenty of tape for sealing boxes, markers to label them, tissue paper and bubble wrap for packing breakables, "Fragile" stickers and a box cutter.
- Prepare a floor plan of the new place so that on moving day you can direct movers to place furniture and boxes in the correct rooms. On the floor plan assign a number to each room and give a copy of this plan to the movers.
- Label your boxes and furniture with a number that corresponds to the room for which they are destined.
- Put together a "survival box" with items you'll need immediately upon arrival at your new place. It should include bottled water, juice boxes, non-perishable snack foods, paper plates and cups, plastic cutlery and paper towels. Don't forget essentials like toilet paper, cleaning supplies, a screwdriver, a few light bulbs and anything else you think you may need.

### **One week before**

- Drain fuel from the lawnmower and other machinery.
- Take down curtains, blinds, rods and shelves.

### **On the last few days leading up to the move**

- Decide what items you need to function comfortably and pack everything else.
- Consume the consumables, give away items you no longer want or need and use your move as an excuse to clean.
- Leave your old home the way you'd like to find your new home the day you move in.
- Memo to take note of the metre readings for electricity and gas.

### **On the day of your move**

- Make sure the movers understand your instructions. Have someone at each site (the old home and the new) to assist.