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Packing tips before a big move by [John Fish](#)

Article published on June 30th 2012 | [Home Improvement](#)

Ave a big move coming up?

Start analyzing the thing that you need to pack. This will help you in estimating the number of boxes that you will be needing and their respective sizes. You will also be needing bubble wraps. You can also get this estimation done by your moving company. You could ask them to send someone over to take a look. Next you have two options, either you could buy the moving boxes and wraps from your moving company or acquire them yourself which is going to be cheaper.

You should start packing based on your move date. Begin with the items that you will not be needing in the next few days. Prioritize the items based on your daily usage. Entertainment items such as books, MP3s, magazines, DVDs etc can make their way into the boxes.

Start naming the boxes as you pack them. Put labels on each of them with a short description on what it contains. Will save you a lot of time after relocating to your new home while unpacking.

Once you have acquired the desired number of boxes, start packing the small items first. Make sure that you don't run out of bubble wraps for fragile items like glass and mirror. Other breakable items such as Flower vases and fragile decorative items can all be put into a single box with bubble wrap. If you have a lot of big furniture it is good to ask for help in moving them around and disassembling.

Binding estimation:

When you are moving, you have the option to opt for a binding or a non binding estimate. If you choose a binding estimate, you need not pay anything more than the estimated amount at the time of delivery. The only exception where you will end up paying more than the estimated amount is when you have opted for additional services.

The moving company will give you the binding estimate details in writing. Once you sign the agreement, you are liable to pay the agreed amount either by cashier's check, cash, money order or a certified check. When your mover arrives for delivery, you are supposed to keep the payment ready, failing which the moving company will place your items into a storage unit and you will be billed for the storage period as well.

Key points:

The copy of the bidding estimate attached to the bill of landing.

The estimated amount clearly mentioned on the agreement.

Charges for any additional services apart from the binding estimate.

You should not load items not mentioned in the inventory at the time the binding estimate was provided.

In such a case, your mover may revise the binding estimate or void the original binding estimate and make it a non binding estimate with your authorization.

You just need to pay the exact amount mentioned in the binding estimate.

You will have to pay for any additional services that you require after the bill of lading is executed, at the time of delivery.

Impracticable operations- If your moving company has to do impracticable operations to deliver your items, then he may collect the appropriate charges but not exceeding 15% of the total amount due at delivery.

You have a 30 day time frame starting from the day your mover provides you the bill of lading pertaining to the impracticable operations charges if any.

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[John Fish](#) - About Author:

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Article Keywords:

movers, moving, movers license, moving tips, moving companies, moving quotes, local movers, relocation, moving companies review

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