

Planning Takes Stress Out of a Move

Organizing belongings — and purging — before a move makes for a better process.

by Stacy Karel

Community contributor

A home buying process can be exhausting, so make a move easier by preparing for it in advance.

Here are suggestions of what you can do to make the move less stressful on yourself and your family.

Remember to send your new address to:

- Family and friends
- Post office, Department of Motor Vehicles and IRS
- Utility companies - electric, water, gas, telephone, cable, Internet
- Doctors, dentists, optometrist and your vet
- Banks and other financial institutions
- An employer
- Any other organizations of which you are a member, magazines etc.

Schedule a moving company and get an estimate for all your items and any additional services that you may require. Organize your belongings and purge! It is better than ending up with that box in a new home that was the junk drawer or storage cabinet at the old house! Get ample boxes and packing

materials in advance to avoid a last minute rush.

Label the boxes clearly so that they will be identifiable after the move. Include the room they will go to and the name that represents the type of contents in the box. For example, “Kitchen/Glass” or “Connor’s Room/toys.” Take pictures of valuable items before the move just in case you need to provide a proof of damage claims later.

Create a separate survival box for all the items that may be needed on “Day One.” Make sure that you carry this box with you and load it last, so that it is the first one you can unload. Some of the items that you may want to put in this box are: scissors, tape, trash bags, pen, snacks, toothbrush/toothpaste, contact lens gear/glasses, soap, roll or paper towels etc.

I personally have moved many times. I always heed my mother’s advice. “Make the beds first!” At least there will be a place to rest when exhaustion sets in!

—*Stacy Karel is a real estate broker with @properties in the Bucktown office. Search the MLS on her website at CONDOChicago.com, join her Facebook page at Facebook.com/CONDOChicago. Curious about the local market? Visit AtPropertiesMarketReport.com*



One key to a good move is to properly label every box and note what room it belongs in.

Photo courtesy of hibu