



The 5 Most Common Moving Mistakes

And How to Avoid Every One of Them

Most moving problems are not random. They are the same five mistakes, made by different people, on different move days, for the same reasons. This guide covers each one: what causes it, what it costs you, and exactly what to do instead. Whether you are a buyer moving into your new home or a seller heading out, these apply to you.

SELLERS

01

Waiting Too Long to Book a Mover

By the time your closing date is confirmed, the good movers are already booked.

Most people start looking for a mover the week before they need one. In spring and summer, that is a problem: availability fills up fast. The moment you have a rough closing window, that is when to start the conversation with a moving company. You do not need a confirmed date to get on a calendar.

Tip: A 3 to 4 week lead time is the minimum. 6 weeks out is where you get options.

Action: Lock in your mover as soon as escrow opens, not when it closes.

BUYERS

02

Underestimating How Much You Actually Have

Every client thinks they have a small move. Most are wrong.

The garage, the storage unit, the spare room that became a catch-all: they add up. Underestimating volume means the wrong truck size, not enough time, and a final bill that surprises everyone. Before you get a quote, walk every room including the spaces you do not use daily and be honest about what is actually there.

Tip: If you have not opened a box or used an item in over a year, it probably should not make the move.

Action: Do a room by room walkthrough before your quote. Include the garage, attic, and storage.

BOTH

03

Moving Things That Should Have Been Removed First

Every item you move costs money. Some of it should not make the trip.

Old furniture, broken appliances, boxes from three moves ago: people move things they do not want because dealing with it feels like one more task. A junk removal visit before packing clears the space, reduces your move size, and often saves more than it costs. It also makes a home show better before photos and open houses.

Tip: Junk removal before a listing can meaningfully improve how a home photographs and shows.

Action: Schedule junk removal 2 to 3 weeks before your move date, before you pack a single box.

BUYERS

04

Not Knowing What Movers Will and Won't Take

Finding out on move day what your mover cannot transport creates real problems.

Hazardous materials, certain plants, open liquids, propane tanks: most movers cannot transport these. Finding out on move day means scrambling to deal with it yourself under pressure. Ask your mover for their restrictions list upfront, well before the move date, so nothing gets left behind unexpectedly.

Tip: This list is longer than most people expect. Ask early, not the morning of.

Action: Request your mover's restricted items list at least two weeks before your move.

BOTH

05

Leaving the New Address Setup for After Move Day

The move is done. Now nothing works because nothing was updated.

Utilities not transferred, mail still going to the old address, services that need a new location: these are easy to handle ahead of time and a headache to fix after. A simple checklist of what needs to be updated, worked through in the two weeks before move day, saves hours of frustration when you are already exhausted.

Tip: Utilities, mail forwarding, and subscriptions should all be updated before you move in, not after.

Action: Set a reminder 2 weeks out to work through your address change list from start to finish.

Color Key:

MAGENTA = Sellers

CYAN = Buyers

PURPLE = Both