

Remember your little red wagon?

Here's how to make moving that easy again:



REPUTATION : First, do your research. How long has the moving company been in business? Are they licensed? Have they won any awards or accolades for service? Can they share any letters of recommendation? If they haven't won any awards for service, chances are they aren't going to win any awards from you. Reputation absolutely saves you money.

RATING: Be sure to check out the company's rating with the Better Business Bureau (BBB). Social media sites such as Yelp, Citysearch and TrustLink will also give you a good idea of other people's experiences with the company. Just like back in high school, popularity counts.

COVERAGE: Don't forget about coverage. What insurance do they offer? Find out if you are covered under your homeowners or renters policy. If not, you may need to consider supplemental insurance. Only a boring topic until you need it. Reputation is your security blanket here too.

RATES: Study rates! Rates can vary based on season and days of the week. Will they give you a better rate if you move on a Sunday as opposed to a Monday? What do their rates really include? Are fuel charges incorporated? Again the best indicator of getting good value is a good reputation. No one wins awards for service when they overcharge.

LONG DISTANCE: If you're moving out of state, ask the company to explain in detail its consolidation policy and delivery windows. Consolidation is when your belongings are combined with other people's and shipped together. It's a great way to save money, but be aware that it may add time to the delivery schedule because multiple shipments are needed. Think of it as buying in bulk.

DETAILS COUNT: Will the moving crew wrap and protect your furniture to prevent damages? How many movers will be on the job? How long will the job take? Will you be charged if there is overtime? By law a moving company can only give you rates on the phone not estimates on the phone. If you want a firm price ask for an onsite estimate. You may live like a zen monk in the same track house floor plan as a grandma and her 5,000 tea cup collection. Not all three bedroom houses are the same, grasshopper.

EXPERTS: What sort of specialty experience do they have? Have they handled antiques, pianos and artwork in past moves? Since you know your belongings better than anyone, you should alert movers in advance of any items that might be difficult to relocate. Additional men and equipment can mean surprising extra costs. If you had trouble getting it into your old place you will no doubt have trouble getting it out. Tell the moving companies before the day of the move so they come prepared to tackle the job.

BE PREPARED: Measure your new home, your new doorways, stairways etc... Measure all your furniture. Make yourself a scale drawing of every room and scale cut out furniture. Think paperdolls for grownups. Figure out how you'd like your furniture arranged in advance. Okay, now figure out if it will fit. Saves you time while the movers are on the clock.

GREEN: Is the moving company Green? Green measures can actually save you money in the long run. Are boxes made of recycled materials? Are their trucks biodiesel? Chances are if the moving company cares about the environment, they'll care about your belongings as well. You know the drill: reputation and awards for service are the key to a happy move into your new home.

DID THEY DO THEIR RESEARCH? Lastly, let the estimator ask YOU questions. If he/she hasn't asked a single question, yet is ready to give an estimate, turn and run.

About NorthStar Moving Corporation

Founded in 1994, Los Angeles-based NorthStar Moving Corporation has redefined the moving industry as the first to offer eco-luxury moving services, elevating basic moving and storage services to a new unparalleled level of customer service, customized care, and environmental consciousness. "A+" rated by the Better Business Bureau, recently voted Citysearch "Best Mover", recommended by The Franklin Report, MovingInsurance.com, and an impressive list of celebrity clientele, NorthStar Moving has proven the state-of-the-art way to move is with its red carpet service.

NorthStar Moving's corporate culture and growth continue to blaze a trail locally and nationally, ranked on the Inc. 5,000 list for the fastest growing companies in the U.S. for the third consecutive year, and named one of the Top 50 Fastest Growing Private Companies also for the third consecutive year and ranked number four in the Best Places to Work by the San Fernando Valley Business Journal. The company's services include local, long distance, international, residential, and commercial moves, as well as full-service storage. NorthStar Moving Corporation's mission is to exceed their clients' expectations with graceful customer care and to move service back into what should have always been the ultimate service industry: the moving industry.



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