



WHY SHOULD I HIRE A PROFESSIONAL MOVER?

WHEN IS THE BEST TIME TO MOVE?

- Studies have shown that moving during the summer, after school's out, may NOT be the best time for your children. Adjustment is easier when they're in school, because classmates quickly become new friends. Sometimes new neighborhoods can be lonely places until the "kids on the block" are discovered.
- The first of the month and the last of the month are busiest for both professional moving companies and truck rental companies. If possible, schedule your move to avoid these peak periods; and be sure to allow at least 30 days advance notice.

- Anyone performing moving service for hire in Illinois is **regulated** by the Illinois Commerce Commission. Movers must be licensed, bonded, insured, and their rates are established according to law. They are also **liable** for any damage to your belongings.
- Professional movers use **quality equipment**, and they know the proper way to load their truck. **Your goods will be transported safely.**
- Professional movers are **trained and experienced** in protecting your property. They know the proper way to handle your items, including corners and up/down stairs.

- **The price is reasonable.** When you consider all the hidden costs of doing it yourself, the price isn't that different whether you use a professional mover or "do it yourself."
- **Your friends and relatives will thank you, because you won't have to help!**

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NOT FOR

"DO-IT-YOURSELF?" WHO REALLY PAYS?

BEFORE you make the decision to "do it yourself," consider these things. You might be surprised!

- How much does it really cost to rent a truck (including rental, mileage, extra equipment such as pads, dollies, etc.)?
- If you are borrowing a pick-up truck, how many trips will it take to get the job done?
- Do you know how to load the truck so your goods won't shift enroute and get broken? What can you stack, and what should you NOT stack while loading?
- **WHAT IF SOMEONE GETS HURT?** Your neighbor may be your best friend in the world, but if he is hurt or permanently disabled because of an accident on your moving day, **who do you think will pay???**
- If your TV gets dropped, who pays for a new TV?

- What if the rental truck breaks down enroute? You'll have to unload everything and load it on a new truck.
- Do you have the proper license and insurance to operate a commercial vehicle? Do you know how to load a truck around tight corners and around tight corners and around tight corners and around tight corners? Do you know how to use the mirrors to get the best visibility? **Will neighborhood children be safe when you're behind the wheel?**
- Will your new home have obstacles on moving day (elevators, stairs, restricted access, etc.)?
- Do your friends and relatives **REALLY** want to help you???? (And have you priced carry-out chicken and beverages lately???)

CONSUMER DISTRIBUTION

BEWARE OF THE "BANDIT"

Unscrupulous unlicensed "bandits" out there may offer to do a move for you at a price that seems too good to pass up — but the price usually ends up being no bargain at all.

Free-lance (unlicensed) "bandits" frequently post notices on Craig's List, bulletin boards at grocery stores or truck rental agencies, advertise in newspapers and "Penny Shopper" type papers, or even put flyers on the windshield of your car at the mall. Don't believe everything you see on the Internet or in the Yellow Pages, either. **CHECK THEM OUT!!** Ask to see their license and then check their complaint history at the regulatory agency (we can help). **Get everything in writing.** Be sure they have a legitimate address.

Before you choose "the cheap guy" just because it's "such a good deal," consider what you could be in for ...



- **Do not hire a mover over the Internet, even (and especially) if it's a cheap quote!** Bandits have a field day that way. Require the mover to come to your home, provide a written estimate, and check reliable references thoroughly.
- It is illegal in Illinois to perform moves for hire without a license from the Illinois Commerce Commission. For moves crossing state lines, a federal license is required. *If a "bandit" is going to operate illegally to begin with, what makes you think he'll be ethical in dealing with you??*
- Regardless of what they tell you, "bandits" are not insured. If your belongings are lost, broken, or stolen, you're out of luck! If property (yours or someone else's) is damaged during the move, **you may be held responsible.**
- "Bandits" do not carry workers' compensation insurance. If their crew gets hurt, **you may be liable.**
- "Bandits" typically are here today and gone tomorrow. If problems develop, the "bandit" can disappear without a trace — maybe even with your property — and you're left holding the bag.
- You are at the mercy of a "bandit" if he decides to steal your property or to hold your goods hostage for more money than he promised it would cost.

Remember: legitimate business people have legitimate expenses to consider when they establish their prices. If you've compared prices and one is really, *really* low, be very careful. What will you be sacrificing for such a low, low price?

Don't try to be too cheap about this. It could cost you everything!

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