

KEEPING YOUR MOVE GREEN

Whether you want to reduce waste by reusing moving supplies, are looking for ways to de-stress your move by decluttering beforehand, or are hoping to save money (or possibly even make some), an environmentally friendly move boasts a few advantages over a traditional move:

- **It's Cost Effective:** The less stuff you have to move, the lower your costs will be. "Green" moves often involve purchasing fewer packing materials, and sometimes you can even make money from tax deductions or selling your possessions.
- **It's Faster:** Environmentally friendly packing materials are more damage-resistant and require less prep work, so they can be packed, loaded, and unloaded more quickly.
- **It's More Efficient:** When you're done, there is virtually no waste to clean up.

HOW TO DO IT

Try these tips for ensuring your move is an eco-friendly endeavor:

1. The vehicle

Intense heat can cause heat stroke, sun burns, dehydration, hyperthermia, and exhaustion. If it's not so hot that you need to reschedule, just remember:

- **Organize your move-related errands** so you're always completing more than one task each time you leave the house.
- **Plan your route** and keep the directions handy so you don't make a wrong turn and have to backtrack.
- **Donate and sell items** so you have fewer boxes and fewer trips to make.
- **Rent the right size vehicle** so you can move more of your items at once, or reduce the actual move to a single trip.
- **Drive smart.** Speeding and harsh braking wastes gas.
- **Maintain your vehicle.** Check your tires, gas cap, air filters, and spark plugs. A car running in tip-top shape can improve fuel economy by as much as 4%.
- **Hire a truck.** Professional movers have lots of experience organizing and moving boxes to maximize space and minimize trips. If you only need help moving a few large or valuable items like furniture and antiques, LTL (less than truckload) shipping is a great eco-friendly option.
- **Talk to your moving company about green options.** Some companies offer clean fuel alternatives like biodiesel and programs with offset carbon emissions. Or, you can purchase your own carbon offsets at Carbonfund.org.



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2. Your belongings

Downsizing before you move helps you cut down on clutter and lower the overall cost of your move. Here are some common decluttering tactics:

REDUCE

Selling is the best way to get rid of your stuff because you can lighten your load and earn a little cash. Aside from the traditional yard sale, there are a few ways to unload your items:

- Craigslist, Amazon, or eBay: Include lots of photos as well as a detailed description of the product and its condition.
- Consignment stores.
- If it's valuable and in good condition, consider an auction.

Approximately 80% of donated clothing ends up in a landfill eventually, and furniture accounts for 9.8 million tons of landfill waste. If you do decide to donate, make sure your belongings are in good enough condition to sell and reuse, and give them to a reputable charity, such as:

- Goodwill
- Habitat for Humanity
- The Salvation Army
- The National Furniture Bank Association
- Other local registered charities of your choice

REUSE

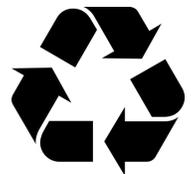
Before you drop off that box of stuff at a donation center, take some time and think about whether or not your items could be used for something else:

- Cut up clothing can become cleaning rags or homemade handkerchiefs.
- Boxes and containers of any material can be used for storage.
- Packaging can be used to create small containers that help organize almost any space.
- Repurpose old furniture by getting creative and turning it into something you love.

RECYCLE

Once you have donated, sold, or found a second use for every item possible, it's time to recycle what's left over. What you can put in your recycle bins depends on where you live, so start by checking your local municipality's website for more information. Regardless of where you reside, there are some items that will require a special trip:

- **Hazardous Materials:** This includes items like batteries, fertilizer, ammunition, paint thinners, and other chemicals. Many moving companies will not ship these items because of the potential threat they pose to the environment, movers, and your belongings. To get rid of these items safely, keep an eye out for special collection events in your area, check Earth911, or call 1-800-CLEANUP to find a recovery location near you that accepts them.
- **Electronics:** Make sure you wipe any personal information and take your electronics to a place where they will be properly recycled, like Best Buy or Staples. You can also use Recycle Nation to find an electronics recycling location near your home.



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3. Packing

There are a lot of creative ways to pack your belongings without resorting to non-recyclables:

1. Use containers you already have, such as:

- Suitcases
- Plastic storage bins
- Old cardboard boxes - old boxes are ideal for light items, but should not be used for anything heavy or fragile in case the seams burst
- Reusable shopping bags

2. Rent plastic boxes that can be returned and reused when you're done.

3. Purchase recycled moving supplies.

4. Opt for alternatives to packing peanuts and bubble wrap, such as:

- Green, biodegradable packing peanuts
- Shredded paper
- Blankets
- Newspaper
- Towels
- Sheets
- Stuffed animals
- Clothing - as long as you don't mind it getting wrinkled!



To ensure their safety in transit, **fragile and valuable items should always be packed with proper packing materials.**

4. Cleaning Up

Whether you're prepping your old place for the new tenants or tidying up your new home before you move in, using green cleaning supplies is another great way to keep your move environmentally-friendly. Try these tips:

- Avoid harsh chemicals by sticking to the basics, such as vinegar, lemon juice, and baking soda.
- Try eco-friendly brands like bioKleen, Bon Ami, and Dr. Bronner's.
- Choose reusable cleaning tools like mops, brooms, and towels over one-time-use products.

STAY GREEN

Moving is an opportunity to start fresh and learn new habits. Take a few steps to maintain this positive attitude and stay green after you move:

- Use LED light bulbs
- Remember to turn off and unplug lights and appliances when not in use
- Switch to biodegradable products
- Cut down on unnecessary packaging
- Consider future purchases carefully.