

## **CANADIAN RELOCATION SYSTEMS, "MOVING TIMES" FEBRUARY 2006**

### **TO PACK OR NOT TO PACK... THAT IS THE QUESTION!**

A successful move doesn't happen by itself, it takes careful planning. Your move will be better organized and your possessions easier to locate and unpack if you give some thought to what you want to take, what you intend to leave behind, and how you pack your belongings.

It's true that you can save money by packing yourself. But in the long run, you can save far more time, energy -- and a great deal of headaches -- by having your professional mover pack some or all of your household goods. Remember, these moving professionals are "packing experts" with the necessary skills and techniques to guard your belongings against damage.

If you do decide to pack some things yourself, here are some tips to help you along:

Prior to packing, decide which items you won't include in the move. Moving is a good excuse for eliminating things you no longer need. This will save you money as well as time when it comes to packing and unpacking.

Don't just start putting items into boxes . . . packing is a process that takes planning. Start by packing things that you rarely use. Items of similar weight and size should be packed together. Make sure that you don't put so much in any box that it becomes too heavy for you to lift.

Use the appropriate packing materials and boxes for the specific item you are packing (i.e., dish pack, partitioned boxes, bubble wrap, wardrobe boxes, pads, etc.) Use packing tape rather than masking tape to seal your boxes, as masking tape isn't strong enough to secure the bottom of a fully loaded box. Items should

be packed in crumpled, unprinted newspaper. Secure the boxes by taping both the top and bottom rather than relying on folded flaps.

All boxes should be labeled with the contents and the room in to which the box should be taken at destination. Boxes containing breakable items should be marked "Fragile." Use an arrow to indicate which end is up.

Write "Open First" on boxes containing items you are going to need as soon as you move into your new home, such as linen and toiletries. These boxes should also be the last ones loaded onto the truck.

Some items require special packing techniques. These include:

**China:** Each piece should be wrapped separately in unprinted newspaper and placed in a specially designed dish pack.

**Stemware:** Start by wrapping each stem, then wrap each glass individually. Wrapped glasses should be placed upside down in a partitioned box.

**Mirrors, framed photographs and artwork:** Strengthen the glass by using masking tape to create an "X" pattern across the surface of the glass. Pad wrap the item, then place it in a box designed for these items.

**Flatware:** Utensils should be nested in groups of three or four. Wrap the bundles and place in a cushioned box.

**Lampshades:** Lampshades should be handled by the wire frame and placed in large boxes. If the shades can be nested, separate them by a piece of unprinted newspaper.

**Clothing:** Your mover can provide you special wardrobe boxes, which allow you to leave your clothing on hangers. Folded clothing can be placed in boxes.

**Small appliances, computers and electronics:** Whenever possible, pack these items in their original boxes. Otherwise, you should use crumpled unprinted newspaper to cushion the items and secure any movable parts with masking tape.

**Jars and bottles:** These items should be packed in bubble wrap. Secure the lid to the top of the jar or bottle with masking tape.

**Collectibles:** Fragile figurines should be packed in bubble wrap, followed by a layer of paper. Use crumpled paper or Styrofoam peanuts to cushion the items. Extra bubble wrap and wrapping paper should be used to protect items with delicate branches or appendages, for example, a figurine with extended arms.

**Records, tapes and CDs:** Prevent damage to these items by stacking them end to end to absorb shock. Pack them tightly within a box to prevent movement.

**Antiques and delicate furnishings:** It is best to ship these items in crates.

## **CLAIMING YOUR MOVING EXPENSES WHEN MOVING IN CANADA**

It is the time of the year where we battle with our Income tax preparation. If you have moved during 2005, here is some tips to claim your moving expenses on you tax return.

Keep in mind that all deductions has to be made against income from your new job. If you moved late in the year you can deduct up to your earned income and then defer the rest of the expenses to next year.

Certain moving expenses are deductible when computing your income for the

year, depending on your tax bracket you could reduce your tax bill by up to 50% of your expenses. Revenue Canada in most cases allows the deduction from total income of the expenses incurring in moving to a different location for the purpose of starting a new job or moving to school.

Instead of filling up "Moving Times" with a long and detailed guide on this. Please visit our website where you can read about the deductions or print it out in .pdf format. <http://relocatecanada.com/revcanada.html>

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