



The Long Distance Moving *Guide*

A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE FOR RELOCATING

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Hey there!



Hi there, I'm Rebecca. I've made Ottawa my home and I love helping others do the same. Whether you're a first-time buyer, thinking about relocating, or a family looking for that next special place, I'm here to guide you every step of the way. Real estate is more than just transactions for me; it's about building lasting relationships and truly understanding what you're looking for.

Thank you for trusting me to share advice as you embark on your home buying journey!

In this guide, I will walk you through the all of the tips, tricks and hacks I wish I knew when making such a lateral move.

Have questions? I'm always available to help. Shoot me a text or give me a call for the quickest response.

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PART ONE

The *Weight* of Moving

In this section we'll walk through what you should know when it comes to finding and selecting a moving company & money saving tips!

Timely Moves: Beating the Rush

One of the first pieces of advice I have is about timing - try to avoid moving during the summer. It's the peak season for movers, which means not only are their schedules packed, but their prices are often at a premium.

My suggestion? Plan your move for the off-peak season, like the fall. Not only do you sidestep the inflated costs, but you also avoid the challenges of icy winter travel. An added bonus? Moving companies are often more willing to negotiate prices during slower periods.

WHAT TO KNOW WHEN CHOOSING A MOVING COMPANY

It is not very straightforward

You'll notice you cannot get a live quote online. Companies will book a call or in person appointment with you only. You will get lots, and lots of emails.

Check Reviews

Many moving companies have sister companies, so they're essentially the same thing - If one has bad reviews, then it's likely the rest will have them too.

Check the Better Business Bureau

Get a good feel - do they have complaints? How are they handling them?

Bait & Hook

Some companies will try to hook you to secure the quote and date, but keep doing your due diligence and search around before you tie your self down, risk losing a deposit or having cancellation fees leering over your head.

Keep Notes

Keep track of all of the companies you've contacted & the quotes they've given you. Narrow it down to a few, and try to haggle them down.

Staggering Quotes

Have A Questioning And Negotiating Mindset

Actual Quote Example (Lightly Furnished 2 Bed/2 Bath) Vancouver to Ottawa

Shop around for moving companies: Don't settle for the first quote you receive. I've personally experienced getting a quote as low as 3,000 and as high as 20,000 for a 2 bedroom move - insane difference right? So you'll want to reach out to multiple moving companies, compare their prices, and be ready to negotiate!

Ask for a breakdown of the costs to understand what you're paying for and see if there's any room for adjustment. You'd be surprised how much you can save and the random extra little charges they'll try to tack on.

Just to give you an example, moving companies will have a default estimate of the goods they'll be transporting for you, and may try to tack on an insurance charge for you based on the estimated value of those items. Say they assume its 10,000 but really its only 5,000 - you could save some money by having them adjust that. This could mean saving you a couple hundred dollars.

TIP

⚠️ If you can, weigh the boxes on your own as you pack. Moving companies charge by weight, so this may give you a ballpark to see if they may be over charging you.

Keep a check list, number each, and document the contents and weight. A good moving company should complete a list of inventory of their own, however, mistakes can happen.

| | |
|--|------------|
| TRANSPORTATION FEE | \$1904.64 |
| ORIGIN & DESTINATION SERVICES (16% OF TRANSPORTATION, COMPRISED OF BOOKING AND ADMIN FEES) | \$304.74 |
| FUEL (13% OF THE TRANSPORTATION TOTAL) | \$247.60 |
| DECLARED VALUE (23,808.00) (8 TIMES THE WEIGHT OF YOUR SHIPMENT) | \$286.27 |
| LABOUR/SCALE (WEIGHING FEE OF SHIPMENT & LABOUR FEE) | \$595.00 |
| SHUTTLE AT ORIGIN (7CENT / LB + FLAT FEE) | \$488.11 |
| SUBTOTAL | \$3,776.36 |
| TAXES (13%) | \$490.93 |
| TOTAL CHARGES | \$4,267.29 |

PART TWO

Exploring Moving Options

In this section we'll cover the different types of moving services, to help you decide which makes most sense for you.

Choosing the Right Option For YOU

Cost isn't the only factor that goes into deciding which type of service to choose, it can be overwhelming to say the least. A lot of that stems from not knowing what you don't know, or not knowing what to ask. Each option is going to have it's own set of risks.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Renting a U-Haul, Budget Friendly?

May be the most budget friendly option of them all, not to mention the convenience this gives you as well. Drive and deliver at your own pace, you're in control of the timelines. However, all the heavy lifting, securing, potential damages or theft are also all in your control. If you're not familiar driving a large vehicle, especially long distances, this might be reason enough to opt for another type of service. Additionally, unexpected costs for fuel, insurance, and rental extensions can add up.

Traditional Movers: The Full-Service Comfort

By far a more hands off approach, no heavy lifting or securing for you. These drivers know what they're doing to make sure your belongings are secured properly when loading. However, there's no guarantee what happens once departed - your personal items might be transferred from truck to truck before making its destination. Scheduling can be rigid, and sometimes, there are discrepancies between estimated and actual moving costs. Miscommunication or mishandling by the moving crew can lead to damaged or lost items. Their estimated arrival days are just a projection, you could be at your new home for Parts before your belongings are delivered.

PODs: Flexibility and Storage Solutions

Now, if your move involves a flexible timeline or the need for temporary storage, portable storage containers like PODs can be a great solution. This option gives you the flexibility to load and unload at your own pace, so you may not have to worry about timelines. There's definitely flexibility, but they require careful planning. You need to check for city permits for street parking, and there could be accessibility issues for the delivery truck. Space limitations mean you might need multiple containers, increasing costs.

Types Of Service Cheat Sheet

| TYPE OF SERVICE | PROS | CONS |
|--|--|--|
| RENTING A U-HAUL | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost-effective and generally cheaper than full-service movers. • Full control over your moving schedule. • Freedom to pack and organize your belongings as you wish. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical effort required for loading and unloading. • Stress of driving a large, unfamiliar vehicle. • Possible additional costs for fuel, insurance, and rental extensions. |
| TRADITIONAL MOVERS OR LONG-HAUL DRIVERS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convenience of having professionals handle packing and heavy lifting. • Efficient and quick moving process. • Belongings are usually insured during the move. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher cost compared to other options. • Less flexibility with scheduling. • Potential for less personal care of your belongings. |
| PODS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexible storage solution for varying timelines. • Delivered to your location for convenient packing. • Useful for both moving and long-term storage needs. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May require permits for street parking. • Limited space within each container. • Delivery truck accessibility could be an issue in certain locations. |

Choosing the right mode of transportation can be overwhelming. In a nut shell; U-Haul is ideal for those who prefer to travel light and are up for adventure. Traditional movers offer a smoother ride for a higher cost. PODs are a great option for those transporting valuable items or needing flexibility with timing.

Well Known Moving Companies

CENTENNIAL MOVING

Renowned for customized services and competitive rates, Centennial Moving offers various packing solutions, storage, and unpacking services.

TRANS CANADA MOVERS INC

With over 25 years of experience, Trans Canada Movers specializes in residential and commercial relocations within Canada and cross-border moves to and from the USA.

PODS

Known for their portable on-demand storage, PODS delivers steel-framed containers to your doorstep, allowing for flexible packing and loading.

PART THREE

Expenses & Additional Tips

In this section we'll cover the different expenses you may come across and should budget for, and some other important tips outside of just the move.

If you're moving for work purposes, you may be eligible to declare your moving expenses on your taxes. Keep all receipts, including moving boxes, food, expenses, and gas, hotel stays. Additionally, if you're buying a new home, you may even be able to include closing costs as part of your moving expenses.

Save On Taxes



TRACK

Travel Expenses

- ✓ Gas: Receipts for fuel purchases.
- ✓ Hotel Stays: Itemized bills from accommodations.
- ✓ Meals: Receipts from restaurants or eateries.
- ✓ Proof of Mileage: Log or document showing distance traveled if claiming vehicle expenses.

KEEP

Transportation and Storage Receipts

- ✓ Mover Fees: Invoices from professional moving services.
- ✓ Rental Truck: Receipts from truck rental agencies like U-Haul.
- ✓ Storage Unit Costs: Receipts for any rented storage units.
- ✓ Packing Materials: Receipts for boxes, tape, bubble wrap, and other materials used for packing.

DOCUMENT

Home-Related Expense Receipts

- ✓ Lease Cancellation Fees: Documentation of fees paid to cancel a housing lease.
- ✓ Utility Hook-up/Disconnection Fees: Receipts for connecting or disconnecting utilities.
- ✓ Taxes for Title Transfer or Registration: Receipts for taxes paid during the transfer or registration of the new home.
- ✓ Real Estate Commissions: Statements detailing commissions paid.
- ✓ Legal Fees for Selling Old Home: Invoices from attorneys or legal services.
- ✓ Legal and Notary Fees for Buying New Home: Invoices for legal services related to the home purchase.



Don't Start Selling Everything Just Yet

The majority of long haul movers will charge you by weight. Take this opportunity to declutter and get rid of all those items stashed away that you plan to use but are just collecting dust. Moving with fewer belongings not only reduces costs, but also gives you a nice new fresh start in your new home, making it easier to organize. It doesn't take much before the garage is jam-packed with stuff and then you're thinking where did all this come from? We used to have so much space. It's crazy how fast things can accumulate, right?

Relocating does not necessarily mean selling all your possessions. It's important to assess the cost and effort required to replace your furniture, particularly if you have children. At times, it's much more cost-effective to spend a few thousand dollars to transport your furniture to your new location. In my scenario, that was precisely the case. Selling everything would have resulted in a fraction of what we had initially paid for. Not to mention, purchasing new furniture would be challenging to time, particularly if you're moving from a distant location. For us, keeping most of our furniture was more sensible since replacing it would be far more expensive. We did, however, sell a significant amount of items to reduce the weight of our move and save money. Although it would have been thrilling to acquire everything anew, selling items that didn't fit in our new home provided an opportunity to start afresh.

WHAT MIGHT BE WORTH KEEPING

- ✓ Sofas
- ✓ Mattress
- ✓ Bedframe/Crib
- ✓ Dining Furniture
- ✓ TV's

WHAT YOU MAY WANT TO SELL

- ✓ Plants
- ✓ Books, CD's, Unused Electronics
- ✓ Coffee Tables, Shelves
- ✓ Outgrown Toys, Bikes, Scooters
- ✓ Heavy or Bulky Dressers or Nightstands

Don't Pack Away Essentials

If you're planning to move to your new home by car, it's important to make sure you have everything you need for the long road trip ahead. Pack your belongings to the brim, as having more items with you when you arrive at your new place is better. Plus, it'll save you money in the long run since movers charge by weight. If you have children, bringing along their toys is a great way to provide them with a sense of familiarity amidst a big change.

Personal Documents

Passports, Immunization Records, Birth Certificates, Social Security Information, Marriage Certificate, Medical Records, School Records, Diplomas, Employment Records, Financial Documents, Etc

Kitchen Essentials

Pots, pans, plates, cutlery, glasses, a can opener, and basic cooking utensils

Cleaning Supplies

Multi-surface cleaner, dish soap, sponges, trash bags, broom, and dustpan.

Bedding

Sheets, pillows, and blankets

Basic Tools

Screwdriver, hammer, nails, flashlight, batteries.

Weather Appropriate Clothing

You may end up moving during the transition of seasons or where weather is slightly different, make sure to pack season appropriate clothes like Heavy winter jackets & Boots, Rain Jackets, Sandals/Shorts

Comfort Items

Comfortable lounge wear or slippers, Favourite Mug, Childrens Favourite Toys, Nightlights

Unexpected or Additional Expenses

| EXPENSE | DESCRIPTION |
|---|--|
| UTILITY HOOK-UP/DISCONNECTION FEES | Charges for setting up or ending services like electricity, water, gas, and internet. |
| PARKING PERMITS | Fees for parking permits for a moving truck or container near your new home. |
| VEHICLE REGISTRATION AND INSPECTION FEES | Costs for registering your vehicle in a new province and any required vehicle inspections. |
| PET RELOCATION COSTS | Expenses for pet transport, kenneling, or veterinary services for health certificates. |
| STORAGE FEES | Costs for temporary storage of your belongings if your new home isn't immediately available. |
| RENTAL EQUIPMENT LATE FEES | Additional charges for late return of rental equipment like moving trucks or dollies. |
| DRIVER'S LICENSE UPDATE FEES | Costs associated with updating your driver's license to your new address or province. |

Unexpected or Additional Expenses

| EXPENSE | DESCRIPTION |
|---|--|
| INTERNET/CABLE SERVICE TRANSFER FEES | Charges for transferring or setting up new internet and cable services. |
| VEHICLE EMISSIONS TESTING | Required in certain areas for vehicle registration, particularly when moving to a different province. |
| POSTAL SERVICE CHANGE OF ADDRESS FEE | Costs for forwarding your mail to your new address. |
| MORTGAGE-RELATED EXPENSES | This includes mortgage application fees, appraisal fees, mortgage insurance, and any legal fees associated with securing the mortgage for your new home. |
| MOVING PERMIT FEES | Permit fees required in some cities for moving trucks to park and unload. |



Moving
Day



Helpful Tips

- ✓ Gather necessary medical records and documents, and make sure to have enough prescription medication.

- ✓ Find free moving boxes on community platforms or stores like Walmart or grocery stores.

- ✓ Label and store small hardware in ziplock bags for furniture reassembly.

- ✓ Change your address on essential documents and services before moving.

- ✓ Take pictures of the back of electronic devices before unplugging them.

- ✓ Have Plants? Take a clipping and repot. Plants are typically not allowed on modes of transportation.

- ✓ Service the vehicle and pack an emergency kit if driving to the new location.

- ✓ Measure doorways and rooms in the new home to ensure furniture and large items fit through them.

- ✓ Create a detailed inventory of belongings for insurance purposes and to keep track of items.

Have questions about your move to Ottawa? Reach out!



I'm always happy to answer your questions and discuss the ins-and-outs of the home buying process! Don't hesitate to drop me a message or give me a call.

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