

curb·it

Moving is hard enough as it is without trying to figure out where to start. Instead of a week-by-week list of contacting your utility companies and stopping the mail, we've put together our top three insider tips on what makes a move go more smoothly and less emotionally exhausting.

When you're ready, Curb-It will swoop in and whisk your junk away – you can stay in your PJs.

Tip #1: Pack a first overnight box – and don't forget to bring it!

Overnight bags are no longer for sleepovers. Whether you are moving across country or across county, knowing that you have a can opener at the ready, can make a world of difference to your growling stomach. Don't make the mistake of bringing the food, but no way to eat it. (No, of course I'm not speaking from personal experience...)

Ideas for your overnight box:

For the Kitchen:

- Simple meal for dinner and breakfast (think soup, PB & J sandwiches, cereal, oatmeal packs etc.)
- Place settings for the number of people in your family
- Paper towels
- Most used kitchen gadgets to get you through the first few meals (think can opener, cheese slicer, knife, pot, pan, etc.)
- Dish soap/sponge/dish rag/dish towel

For your person:

- Toiletries (toothbrush/paste, meds/vitamins, soap, shampoo /conditioner, razor, makeup etc.)
- Pillows, sleeping bags if needed, favorite stuffed toy for kids, blankets
- Change of clothes
 - Work clothes for moving
 - PJs/loungewear (you'll deserve it!)
 - Out and about clothes for shopping/eating out

Other:

- Toolset
- Basic cleaning supplies
- Lamp (for reading, making puzzles, etc.)
- Deck of cards/board game (don't forget you still like each other!)
- Treat (candy, chocolate, snack mix, etc.)

Tip #2: Be an organized packer

Most people label boxes 'kitchen' or 'bedroom: socks' or even an initial for a room with a huge list of contents. While there's nothing wrong with that, lots can get lost in the shuffle or forgotten.

Consider investing in some colored labels and a handful of sharpies, and on your computer, create a numbered list of all your boxes and their contents. Here's what I mean:

- Pink labels = bathroom, Blue labels = kitchen, Green labels = bedrooms, etc.
- Each color category gets their own number set: Green 1-20 (or however many) Blue 1-20 (or however many)

On your master list, identify what Green box #1 contains, what Blue box #5 contains, etc.

This helps visually identify where each box should go, but also clearly tells you what's in the box. Make two printed copies. Keep one on your person and store one in the overnight box. It may be a good idea to email yourself the master list as well.

Tip #3: Take only what you need/can't live without

It can be difficult to find the line between need and want. But when you're moving, you *need* to find it. You'll thank yourself later and so will your family.

We're not talking about throwing out things without consideration. We're talking about instinct. For many, moving is a chance to start over. When you look at that blazer or tie, how does it immediately make you feel. If you smile and stand up a little taller – it's likely a must take. If you grimace and die a little inside, donate or toss it.

Technology is a great example. If you only watch Blu-ray movies but are holding on to your DVDs (especially copies you've replaced with Blu-ray) – let them go and know you're getting better quality entertainment with keeping the newer product.

Ask yourself: have I used this in the last year? Did I remember I had this? Have I missed this being in a box in my garage the past six years?

You may find some lost treasures you can enjoy once again in your new home! You may discover giving them life with someone new is more freeing. It's up to you, but your move – the physical move and the unpacking – will be so much easier on you if you sort as you pack. Then, you can be confident as you start your new life.