

# MOVING IDEAS

## Planning Ahead—A Smart “Move”

(NAPSA)—Whether for work, family or change of lifestyle and scenery, moving is widely recognized as one of life’s most stressful events. Thoughtful planning can ease frustrations and prevent many unpleasant surprises. Clyde and Shari Steiner, authors of the *How-To-Move Handbook*, and nationally recognized relocation experts, offer their top five tips for an easier move:

### **Stay connected while house hunting**

You never know when you might drive by the perfect house—on the way to work, the grocery store or taking the kids to soccer practice. Keep a notepad and pencil in the car to write down details of appealing houses you pass by. Also bring along a wireless phone to call a spouse or roommate in case you are able to get a last-minute viewing.

### **Sign a written contract**

The Steiners recommend hiring a moving company at least four to six weeks before the expected moving date. Always obtain an itemized binding estimate signed by the company before the movers pack your belongings and load them onto the truck. Movers have the legal right to hold onto your possessions and keep them packed on their truck until you pay their asking price. Secure an agreement in advance, to avoid being subject to the moving company’s demands.

### **Change of address**

Several weeks before moving, notify people and organizations about your new address. Be sure to include physicians, dentists and other medical professionals among those notified.



**High-tech equipment may have special packing requirements.**

### **Set up utilities ahead of time**

Research gas, electric, cable and telephone service providers at your new address and arrange for utilities to be connected the day of your arrival. Why not simplify your life by searching for integrated communications plans? Sprint, for example, offers one plan for local, long-distance and wireless service in some markets and is easily activated by calling 1-800-PINDROP. Don’t forget to disconnect service at your former residence.

### **Insure high-tech equipment**

Add computers and other high-tech items to your homeowners policy before you move. Ask if your insurance company covers goods in transit for breakage during the move, and for proper packing guidelines to ensure your policy honors any claim you may make.

“Careful planning and packing helps ensure when you get to your new home you can find a glass for water, a change of clothes and a phone to call family and friends to let them know that you made the trip safely,” said Shari Steiner.