

# MOVING IDEAS

## Make The Minutes Count When Managing A Household Move

(NAPSA)—To keep your relocation experience moving right along, the key is first creating a well-thought out plan that covers both major tasks and minor details, from selling and buying a house to disconnecting and reconnecting utilities and services. That's the advice of Donna Kozik and Tara Maras, authors of the household moving book "29 Days To A Smooth Move." They offer these tips on taking advantage of ways to save time.

### Save Moving Minutes

Get organized now and save time later. First, review the general categories of the things that need to be done prior to a move. Among other things, you'll have to:

- Ready the house for new occupants
- Condense goods
- Pack possessions
- Prepare the children
- Gather paperwork, estimates, change of address forms, etc.
- Say goodbye to friends and family

"The most important thing is to make a plan and stick with it," said Maras. "The second most important thing is to have faith in yourself and your abilities—you're going to get through this."

### Do a Little Every Day

After you have your lists ready, prioritize. What takes time and needs to be done first? What can wait until closer to the move? What has to be done during business hours? What can be done on weekends? Use the time you do



**IT'S A WRAP—Hearing those words are as pleasant to households managing a move as they are to a movie director.**

have to your best advantage.

"You'd be amazed at what you can do if you focus for 60 minutes—the time of one talk show—a day," said Kozik. "Concentrate on one project at a time and watch things progress smoothly."

Other ways to make the best use of your time and avoid hassles:

- Use an electronic calendar to schedule reminders of what has to be done and when, such as taking your pets to the vet for vaccination updates. Remember to collect copies of their health records while you're there.

- House hunt in the morning after rush hour and before lunch hour. Since you never know when you'll spot the perfect house—or how fast it'll go off the market—

carry a mobile phone with picture capabilities and use a service like PCS Picture Mail from Sprint to snap photos of houses you like and share them instantly with a realtor or spouse.

- Instead of sending handwritten "we've moved" cards, save stamps and your wrist by sending e-cards to friends and family.

### Don't Let the Details Get You Down

Don't make things more complicated than they need to be. "Sometimes you can find yourself wasting precious minutes or even hours over something small," Maras said. "Watch out for these 'time mines' working against you. If you can keep something simple, do it."

- If moving yourself, choose a truck with a loading ramp similar to those used by the pros. You'll cut loading time in half and save your spine in the process.

- When it's time to get connected at your new locale, combine as many services as possible to eliminate multiple calls and wait times when setting up utilities. For example, Sprint Complete Sense allows you one contact for all of your local, nationwide long distance and wireless calling needs.

- "Moving brings momentum to your life and can lead you to all kinds of invigorating changes," said Maras. "Create your strategy, work your plan and soon you'll be celebrating a successful move."

For more moving tips, visit [www.29DaysToASmoothMove.com](http://www.29DaysToASmoothMove.com).