

BUDGET STRETCHING IDEAS

Saving Money On Moves

(NAPSA)—Cutting the costs of moving can be a smart way for millions of Americans to save money each year. But experts say not to assume that doing a move yourself is always the least expensive way to go.

Do-it-yourself movers often face “forgotten” costs, such as furniture padding, carpet and floor protection materials, and insurance for their belongings and truck. Additionally, there’s the time and expense of disassembling and reassembling furniture, as well as the risk of injury to yourself and your helpers.

The good news is that people can often hire a reputable, professional moving company—complete with expert movers and protection against loss—for about the same cost as moving themselves. Allied Van Lines offers these tips to help you plan “Money Smart Moves”:

- **Get advice.** When you hire a professional moving company, be sure to ask for its advice on developing a budget and then saving money on things such as packing, shuttle service, short- and long-term storage, and optimal times to move.

- **Get rid of stuff.** Reduce your moving load and make a little extra cash by holding a garage or yard sale or running a silent auction with friends and family.



Hiring professional movers can often cost about the same as doing it yourself, but without all the hassle.

- **Be creative.** Use shipping services such as UPS to send ahead heavier nonfragile items such as books, CDs, DVDs, and VHS tapes.

- **Ask for guaranteed pricing.** Request that your moving company lock in a price on the estimated weight of your shipment. Just be sure to sell or give away unused, unwanted or heavier items before the company visits your home so it can accurately estimate the weight.

- **Save by moving during an off-peak time,** such as a Tuesday in the middle of the month. You can lock in even deeper discounts if you move during the winter months.

For more money-saving tips, free packing advice and to sign up for a free moving estimate, visit www.allied.com/moneysmart.