

Priestley & Sons

MOVING THE NORTHWEST

Whether you're moving two miles or 200 miles, the best thing you can do to help your move go smoothly is to properly prepare. From hiring the right moving company to properly packing your belongings, here are a few tips to help you get started.

Hire a trustworthy moving company

When hiring a moving company, be wary of unlicensed moving groups posing as professionals. In Oregon, moving residential goods is a regulated service, and companies must be authorized by the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to service the public.

Before your move

To make your packing load lighter, start weeding out items that you no longer use or need. Have a garage sale or donate your unwanted possessions to a charity. Also, begin to clean out your kitchen. Remember not to stalk up on canned goods or other food items before you move; you can buy these items once you move into your new residence.

Packing for the move

If you are doing your own packing, make sure everything is boxed and labeled before moving day. Try packing room by room to help stay organized. Use newspaper as padding to protect fragile items when packing, and remember not to over pack boxes. Point out items that may need additional care during the move.

Place items you will need immediately such as important paperwork, a change of clothes or prescriptions together in one box that can travel with you. This way you won't have to worry about finding them later.

Federal law prohibits you from packing the following:

- Flammable fluids such as lighter fluid or gasoline
- Auto maintenance fluids
- Paint and paint thinner
- Combustible objects such as oxygen bottles or propane tanks
- Firearms
- Fireworks

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Moving Checklist

Be sure to notify the following of your move:

- Post office (submit a change of address form)
- Electric company
- Gas Company
- Water service
- Telephone Company
- Sewer district
- Garbage service
- Cable Company
- Credit Card Companies
- Insurance Agency
- Department of Motor Vehicles
- Doctors
- Dentists

For services such as cable and electricity, give companies at least one weeks notice for transferring accounts.

Steps to take before moving day:

- Return all library books or items borrowed from neighbors
- Provide movers with a floor plan of your new home so they know where all items should be placed
- Defrost your freezer and refrigerator
- Make are sure all entryways, doorways, porches and driveways are clear
- Remove potted plants, door mats, low-hanging items and rugs

For business moves:

- Order new business cards, letterhead and envelopes with your new address and phone number
- Be sure to notify clients of your move well ahead of time
- Remember not to open a new 5 gallon water jug before your move

If moving with children make sure to:

- Keep special toys on hand
- Visit your new community with children before the move so they are comfortable in their new setting

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If moving with pets:

- Let your pet become accustomed to its kennel in advance
- Check to make sure your pet has fresh water
- Avoid feeding your pet several hours before the trip
- Take your pet on short drives before the move so it is used to travel
- Never leave your pet unattended in a vehicle

When packing electronics:

- Disconnect electronics 24 hours before your move, except plasma screen TVs, so they will be at room temperature for the move
- Disconnect all wires and cables, do not pack computers partially connected
- Detach paper holders and remove ink cartridges for printers
- Back up computer files

Before you head out the door ask yourself:

- Is the water shut off?
- Is the furnace or air conditioner turned off?
- Are the lights turned off?
- Are all utilities scheduled to be disconnected?
- Are all windows shut and locked?
- Have you given the new owners your old keys?

Priestley & Sons strives to make you feel as comfortable and prepared as possible for your move. If you have additional questions please call or e-mail us; we'd love to help.