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Moving Checklist

The following article appeared in the May 27 issue of the EMC community newspapers. President Heather Skuce is using the President's Pen column offered to the Board by EMC to provide information to the public about the real estate market and to showcase the benefits of working with a member.

Spring and summer are the most popular seasons for moving to a new home, for some very good reasons. The snow has melted away; the real estate market heats up, meaning more choice for buyers and quicker sales for sellers; and for families with children, it's far easier to move in the summer when school's out.

With that in mind, the REALTOR® members of the Ottawa Real Estate Board would like to offer the following moving checklist. Many of the items may seem like common sense, but it's always helpful to have something concrete to refer to during a stressful or busy time.

As soon as you know your moving date:

Inform the following of your change of address, either by mail, phone or in person:

- Banks, credit card companies, Insurance companies
- Friends, family, social clubs
- Doctors, Dentists, Professional Associations
- Fitness Centre, Library

Set up mail forwarding at the post office

Get estimates from moving companies if you plan to use one, and book your move as soon as possible (especially if you plan to move during a high-volume period such as a holiday weekend or the first of the month)

Conduct an inventory of items in your home for insurance purposes (consider using a digital camera)

Weed out unused or unnecessary items and either donate them, throw them out or hold a yard sale

Purchase or obtain packing materials (boxes, tape, packing paper, markers, bubble wrap, plastic sheeting etc.) and make a packing plan

One Month Before Moving Day

Make a list of essential items you will need right away at the new house: bedding, towels, toilet paper, light bulbs, first aid kit, toolbox containing hammer, screwdriver, nails and screws, duct tape, pliers, etc. Pack these items in a box clearly marked "First Unpacked"

Arrange for transfer of these services to the new home:

- Utilities (gas, electricity, cable, phone, internet)
- Newspaper delivery, Magazine subscriptions
- Home insurance

Two Weeks Before Moving Day

Change your address on your driver's license, health card, and other identification effective the date of your move

Arrange to have all metres (electricity, gas, water) read and phone, cable and internet services disconnected or transferred to your new home on moving day

Use up or donate all foods in your pantry and refrigerator. Arrange for easy-to-prepare foods (or get takeout) for moving day and the days leading up to it

Arrange for child care on the day of the move, if necessary

Arrange for the house keys to be left with the new occupants

You can add to or subtract from this list as appropriate for your situation; obviously, a move down the street or to a new neighbourhood will be a different experience than a move across the country. Don't forget that your REALTOR® is also an excellent resource and may be able to answer many of your questions about the relocation process. We hope you find this list helpful in making your next move a smooth one.

The President's Pen column was prepared by the Ottawa Real Estate Board and first appeared in the EMC community newspapers.