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ALLIED VAN LINES' TIPS FOR "MONEY-SMART MOVES"

With today's economic challenges, Americans are cutting corners in small and big ways, but when it comes to moving, you don't have to do without the essentials. You may just need to be a little creative. The following are some money-saving tips from Allied Van Lines, including a few surprising ways you can save money when planning your next move.

Stick to Your Budget

Cost is generally the top concern for most people planning a move, especially when you have a fixed budget. A reputable moving company, such as Allied Van Lines, will help you create a budget and moving plan you feel comfortable following.

When a moving company sends a salesperson to your home to complete your move estimate, he or she will take time (usually a couple of hours) to assess everything in your home – from size and quantity of items to estimated weight of your shipment. This is the time to discuss your budget and ask your salesperson for advice to save money on things like packing, shuttle service, short- and long-term storage, and optimal times to move.

In the past, individuals and families moving smaller households on fixed budgets couldn't afford to hire a professional moving company. Allied's new low-cost option, Allied Express, offers essential moving services for about the same price as it would cost you to rent a truck, enlist your friends and move yourself.

Get Rid of Stuff

Moving offers a great opportunity to get rid of household items you no longer need, use or want. And the less you have to move, the lower your moving costs will be.

You can reduce your moving load and make a little extra cash by having a garage or yard sale or holding a silent auction with friends and family.

Donating items to charity can help you do a good deed for someone in need while also providing a tax break. If possible, donate or sell heavy items, including books and furniture to lighten your load.

Be Creative

The following are a few resourceful tips and tricks offered by the Allied Van Lines' sales team to help reduce moving costs.

- Pack small and fragile items, such as computers, mirrors, collectibles and flat-panel televisions, in your car and drive it to your new home, rather than paying to move it. This option is best for short-distance or local moves.
- Use shipping services, such as UPS, to send ahead heavier non-fragile items, including books, CDs, DVDs and VHS tapes.
- For short-distance or local moves, rent a small moving trailer and pre-move your smaller, fragile items.

- Move in the middle of the week, on a Tuesday or Wednesday, and in the middle of a month, especially during peak moving season (May – September).
- Plan your move in advance, if possible, and book your move early to avoid peak pricing. Allied Van Lines will help you avoid higher peak-time prices if you book before May 1.
- Pack items yourself. For tips on packing correctly, visit the Allied Van Lines Web site at www.allied.com/moneysmart.
- Move during off-peak times (October – April). You can get even deeper discounts if you plan your move during the slower winter months of November, December, January and February.

Lock in Guaranteed Pricing

Ask for guaranteed pricing. Allied offers a Total Price Guarantee (TPG) for consumers interested in locking in a price on the estimated weight of their shipment. Just be sure to ask moving company representatives to visit your home after you sell or giveaway unused, unwanted or heavier items, so they can more accurately estimate the weight of your shipment.

In addition, TPG is an excellent option for people living in homes that can be a challenge to reach with a large moving truck – on a dead-end or narrow street or for homes that back to alleyways. These homes require a smaller truck called a “shuttle” to move items from the larger moving truck to reach the home. This shuttle service usually costs from \$300 to \$500, however, Allied’s TPG program doesn’t charge extra for it.

For more information on saving money on your next move, or to register for a free move estimate, visit www.allied.com/moneysmart.