

Hiring professional movers is a big decision; making the right choice can save you time, money, and stress. Here are the **11 most important things to know** when hiring professional movers:

1. Check Licensing & Credentials

- Make sure the moving company is properly **licensed** and **insured**.
- For interstate moves, check if they have a **USDOT number** through the **FMCSA (Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration)**.
- For local moves, verify licensing requirements in your state.

2. Read Reviews & Ask for References

- Look for reviews on **Google, Yelp, BBB (Better Business Bureau), and social media**.
- Ask the company for references from past customers.
- Be wary of companies with **many complaints** or no online presence.

3. Get an In-Home or Virtual Estimate

- **Reputable movers** will offer a free, no-obligation estimate.
- **Avoid quotes over the phone** without seeing your belongings.
- Make sure they conduct a **detailed inventory** of what's being moved.

4. Understand Pricing & Avoid Hidden Fees

- Ask if the estimate is **binding or non-binding**.
- Understand extra charges for **stairs, elevators, long carries, and heavy items**.
- Find out if there are fees for **packing materials, fuel surcharges, or last-minute changes**.

5. Ask About Insurance & Valuation Coverage

- Movers offer **two types of coverage**:
 - **Basic coverage (60 cents per pound per item)** – Free but minimal.
 - **Full Value Protection** – Costs extra but provides better protection.
- Consider **third-party insurance** for expensive items.

6. Know the Difference Between a Broker & a Carrier

- **Movers (Carriers)** handle your move directly.
- **Brokers** coordinate with third-party movers but don't move your stuff themselves.
- If using a broker, confirm the **actual moving company's reputation**.

7. Ask About Their Experience & Services

- How long have they been in business?
- Do they specialize in **local, long-distance, or international moves**?
- Do they offer **packing, storage, and specialty item moving (pianos, antiques, vehicles, etc.)**?

8. Get Everything in Writing

- Review the **Bill of Lading (BOL)** before signing.
- Ensure the contract includes **pricing, services, pickup & delivery dates**.
- **Never sign blank or incomplete documents**.

9. Confirm Delivery Window & Timelines

- Understand the estimated delivery date **and potential delays**.
- Ask about compensation for **late deliveries**.
- Get a **written agreement** on delivery timelines.

10. Be Aware of Moving Scams

- **Red flags include:**
 - Requiring a **large deposit upfront** (most reputable movers don't require more than 10%).
 - Giving a **suspiciously low estimate**.
 - No physical address or unmarked trucks.
 - Movers demand more money **before unloading**.

11. Prepare for Moving Day

- **Label boxes** clearly and keep an inventory.
- Keep **important documents, jewelry, and firearms** with you.
- Verify the company's **truck & crew** match what you were promised.

By following these steps, you'll **avoid stress, prevent scams, and ensure a smooth moving experience**.

I hope you find this helpful

Billy Robertson

"Truck"

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