

How to Help Your Clients Budget Moving Expenses

While most people know that moving is not an easy task, many do not realize the expenses that can be incurred with a move, and therefore, they do not know how to budget for a move. As a realtor, you are familiar with the process and can help. Provide the following information to your clients to help them with budgeting for their moving expenses:

There are many out-of-pocket expenses involved with moving, whether it is a move across town or across the country. Here are some of the expenses that you should take into account when making a budget for moving.

The first step is to decide how you are going to move your belongings. Are you going to hire a moving company or do the move yourself by renting a truck? If you are going to hire a moving company, call a few companies and have them come to your house to give you an estimate. The price will normally depend on the weight and number of your items and the distance of the move.

There are additional fees to consider when using professional movers, including extra valuation coverage for your belongings; additional services, such as preparing appliances for the move or moving a piano; and extra charges, such as expedited services and long-haul charges. Also, the time of the year and the day of the week can also affect the cost of using a moving company. The cheapest months to move are from October to April, and moving on weekdays is cheaper than moving on weekends.

If you are going to do the move yourself, call a few rental truck companies to compare their rates. The rates usually vary depending on the size of the truck needed and whether it is a one-way move or if you will be able to return the truck to the original rental location.

If moving yourself, you will need to purchase all of your packing supplies, including boxes, tape, bubble wrap, markers, etc. While you used to be able to go to your local grocery store and ask them for their used boxes, most now crush their boxes almost immediately, so make sure to include boxes in your budgeting.

Regardless if you are using a moving company or are doing the move yourself, there are other travel expenses that need to be budgeted for. If you will be shipping your vehicle via a freight service or private driver, this additional cost needs to be budgeted for. If you will be driving your car, make sure you budget for a trip to your mechanic to get a checkup before your move and budget for the gas you will use.

Depending upon the distance of your move, you might need to budget for hotel rooms, as well as eating on the road. These expenses can add up quickly.

If you have pets, you might have additional costs for transporting them, such as carriers or boarding. If you are taking your pet with you, make sure you find hotels along your route that will accept pets in their rooms. They usually charge additional fees for pets.

Understand that even the best budgeters will run into some bumps along the road. Therefore, budget liberally to make sure you will have extra funds in the event an unexpected situation occurs during your move.

