



## MOVING HOUSE (WITH CHILDREN) - 10 TIPS

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We experienced again that moving house with a family is not an overnight job - it's like giving birth, you sort of forget how painful it actually is! The new house is very nice though, and room by room it's slowly coming together. Here are some tips that I have found helpful for before, during and after the move:

1. Take measurements (including ceiling heights) of the new place before the move and make a basic plan of what furniture should go where. Think about how you will get bigger pieces into the new house - is the doorway big enough? And the stairwell? Does it fit through the windows, maybe?

2. Clearly label the boxes. It should be *extremely* clear to what room what box should go - don't worry too much about the content. Your kids can help label / decorate the boxes!
3. Don't overload boxes with heavy items (books), they will be too hard to handle and they will only break. Keep inserts of drawers together: dump them in a ziplock bag, in the new house you can easily dump them in the drawer again. Only bother wrapping breakable pieces and keep them in a separate, clearly labeled box.
4. Keep handbags, laptops, telephones, passports, jewelry and other small valuables together and move them in your own car. Also keep a box with power cables, extension cables, router for internet connection and a couple of table lights with you. And the tool box!
5. Pack a suitcase with overnight essentials for your family, toilet paper, clean bedding for the beds and some towels. Make the beds in the new house as soon as possible, chances are high you'll be too exhausted later!
6. Buy plenty of drinks and some beers. Think about cups and glasses. Make sure to have plenty of bread and cheese available for sandwiches, and ingredients for coffee. Buy some bags of crisps and apples. Keep all of the food in a separate bag, and keep telephone numbers for delivery services handy. Don't even dream about cooking!
7. Try to have the kitchen and bathroom cabinets in the new place clean before you move, so you can start unpacking in these rooms. It's nice to have these rooms in working order as soon as possible!
8. The kids should be 'out of the way'. Ask if they can play at a friend's house for the day, and ask if they can have dinner there as well. Make sure the kid's room is cozy and their beds are made before they come home from their day activity!
9. Buy some new DVD's for the kids, these days are exhausting for them as well and they will love to lounge on the couch, while you can focus on some more unwrapping and organizing.
10. Get plenty of garbage bags for all the stuff you decide you don't need after all. Think of the new place as a new start!

xxx Esther

P.S. Thanks Bibi, Rebecca, Katie, Destri, Sandra and Vicky for your advice, we followed it all and it really helped!

P.P.S. Do you have more tips for a smooth move? Please leave a comment!

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