

# 105 Tips For A Successful Relocation



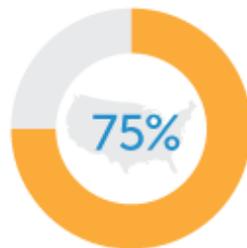
## 105 QUICK TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL RELOCATION

American society has become increasingly nomadic. In the past, it was not uncommon for someone to live and die in the house where they were born. Now, about 75% of the U.S. population relocates once every five years.

While many people may move elsewhere within their own state, at least 15 percent relocate to another state entirely. The average American will live in 11 to 13 different homes during their lifetime.



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Moving can be a stressful, complicated affair, especially for families with children and pets -- and yet most of the "moving tips" out there seem to center on the importance of packing boxes and making checklists. A good checklist might keep you organized and reduce anxiety, but we noticed that there was a certain "human element" lacking in these endless lists.

We wanted to create some helpful moving hints that focused less on the physical aspects of moving to a new house, and more on doing what it takes to make a happy home once you get there. Finding a new home should be an exciting, joyful affair -- and that's something you can't always get from a checklist.



Moving checklists may help with organization but seem to lack the "human element" required for successfully settling into a new neighborhood.

With that in mind, we created this list of 100 tips for a successful relocation that focus on the "human element" of moving.

To get first-hand information, we consulted real people with a wide variety of moving experience -- both expert bloggers and everyday people -- and condensed their considerable and varied experience into this list. They included:

- Jessica Lynn from [Jessica Lynn Writes](#), who has lived everywhere from New Mexico to Georgia to northern Italy.
- Susan from [Organized 31](#), a prolific blogger married to an active military member who has moved over twenty times.
- Carmel from [Our Fifth House](#), a design-obsessed DIY blogger whose blog is named for her fifth residence.
- Allison from [A Glimpse Inside](#), an Army wife and crafting enthusiast who has moved her family six times, from Virginia to Colorado and several other states.
- Allison from [Golden Sycamore](#), a married blogger with two young girls, a dog, and two cats, who has moved four times since getting married.
- Jill from [Forever Cottage](#), an inventive interior decorator who has moved ten times: from Illinois to Minnesota to Oregon to New Jersey, back to Minnesota, and then back to Portland again!

# RELOCATION EXPERTS

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*"Moving can be overwhelming, so I'd suggest just taking it all one step at a time."*

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*"As much as I like to plan and as many times as we've moved, you still don't know what you don't know. All you can do is research what you can and hope for the best."*

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our fifth **HOUSE**  
*where home isn't a place, it's a state of being*

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*"Don't be afraid to introduce yourself, you learn a lot from being outgoing. You'd be surprised how often a stranger is willing to talk to a new person in town."*

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*"Moving can be scary and nerve wracking but when you get to your new area, just get out and explore. You will be amazed at how quickly you learn the back roads to your favorite store and find your new favorite place to hang out."*

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*"I think really doing your best to find the right neighborhood for you is key. It will make your move really worth it! Also, getting involved and meeting new people early on makes the move more bearable and helps you to settle in more quickly."*

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*"Bloom Where You Are Planted."*

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FOREVER\* COTTAGE  
  
JILL HINSON INTERIORS

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These contributors have moved a combined total of over 50 times, spanning a total of 20 states and 3 countries. Each of them had their own reasons for moving -- from military postings to marriages -- and all of

them have a wealth of first-hand advice and experience making the most of every move, ensuring their families had a positive relocation experience.

Now we've put that knowledge at your fingertips. Enjoy, and happy moving!

# RESEARCH

Your first step in moving to a new place: do your research! The good news is, the information age has put a wealth of data at your fingertips. Here are a few tips on how to organize and guide your research.

## #1

Go to Google for raw data and basic research -- but that's only a first step.

Google

## #2

Use research to define and refine your parameters for finding a new home.

## #3

Prioritize your criteria for moving: schools, recreation, safety, amenities, cost of living, employment, etc.

## #4

Narrow the focus of your research: urban, suburban, or rural? Town or city?



## #5

Check out data on school rating sites, city sites, and crime statistics.



## #6

The best school districts also tend to be the best places to live.

## #7

Find, join and read Facebook groups or forums related to your potential new hometown.

## #8

Check out local tourism sites and blogs.



## #9

View government and city websites along with the local chamber of commerce.

## #10

Don't be afraid to ask a realtor for advice and resources.



## #11

When looking at houses, check out the surrounding neighborhood, online or in person.

## #12

Take restaurants, grocery stores, gas stations, and other convenience-based choices into account in your research.

## #13

Don't forget to research (and prepare for) the weather!



## #14

Read local blogs and personal travel sites to find out more about the area.

## #15

Poll friends on Facebook about the area you're thinking of relocating to, to get first-hand experience and advice.

## #16

Find and talk to as many people from the area as you can.



## #17

Take all anecdotes and personal stories with a grain of salt.

## #18

Realize that research can only do so much!





# FINDING A NEIGHBORHOOD

So you've found a city or town where you want to live. Your next step is to find a good neighborhood -- for yourself, your family, and your pets. Here are a few things to keep in mind when finding a good neighborhood:

## #19

If possible, visit the neighborhood in person before you move.



## #20

When visiting neighborhoods, look at the yards, lawns and driveways to get a feel for the place. Are they neat?

## #21

Stop and listen: do you hear neighbors fighting? Sirens? Take audio into account.



## #22

Strike up a conversation with potential neighbors if the opportunity arises.

## #23

If you have kids, take a close look at schools, bus routes, and nearby activities.

## #24

Determine how much of a commute you can live with. Let this inform your decisions.



## #25

Depending on the town (or military base), there may be limitations on how many pets you can have, and what kind.

## #26

Take into account the nearest hospitals, airport and major interstates.



## #27

Narrow and refine your search to include house amenities, bathrooms, yard, etc.



## #28

If you can't visit in person, look at Google Earth to get a feel for the neighborhood before you visit.

## #29

If concerned for your children, check the local sex offender registries.



## #30

Make a spreadsheet prioritizing and ranking your choices for neighborhoods.

## #31

Consult websites like Zillow, Rent.com, or Areavibes for more raw data.

**areavibes**

## #32

Use your smartphone, Google Maps and Street View to "pre-explore" a neighborhood.

## #33

Decide whether you like the quiet, or prefer a busy, energetic neighborhood.

## #34

Look at the traffic patterns and consider the impact that may have on where you live.

## #35

Keep an eye out for any great local theaters, restaurants or other "perks" to a neighborhood.





# SETTLING IN

You've committed to the move, packed and labeled the boxes, and made the journey. Those checklists will come in handy in keeping all your possessions straight, but how do you help make the house feel like home? These tips might help you get settled.

## #36

Only fill your home with items you really want or need. Sell or give the rest away; this is a fresh start for your new home.

## #37

Plan to order pizza or a meal out the first night of unpacking. You'll want the break.



## #38

Make sure you know early on where the nearest grocery store and hardware store is!

## #39

Label every single box with an assigned room, so you know what's inside.



## #40

One room at a time! Pick a room (kitchen, bedroom) and unpack everything that belongs there.

## #41

Unpack one box at a time, instead of searching multiple boxes for that one thing you need.

## #42

Unpack the bedding and towels first. You'll need them.



## #43

Make sure the movers have all the boxes they need before they leave.

## #44

Don't be shy; ask for help from new friends or neighbors if necessary.



## #45

If you have children, unpacking their toys and games may be a priority.



## #46

Don't be afraid to leave some boxes packed until later; creating a comfortable home environment takes time.

## #47

Early in the unpacking process, put up pieces of art or use decorations from your old home to make it feel more familiar.

## #48

Be flexible and experiment with home accents and décor; move things around or try something new.

## #49

Consider putting off any large purchases until you're really settled into your new place.

## #50

At the same time, consider rewarding yourself with a new home purchase when ready.

## #51

Take time to learn about your new house and any quirks it might have.

## #52

Buy a paper map and study it to get used to your new surroundings.

## #53

Don't over-exert yourself. Take breaks and relax by doing something fun in your new hometown.



# MEETING PEOPLE



Making new friends in a strange city can be stressful, but it doesn't have to be painful or difficult. There are many different ways to meet new people and start new relationships, even when you don't know anybody.

## #54

Research won't help you meet people! Make an effort to explore and connect.



## #55

Use online groups and social media to find out what locals think and prefer.

## #56

Start up a conversation with strangers at lunch, or out in the park.



## #57

Local coffee shops and libraries can be a great place to meet people.

## #58

Take your pets for a walk and start up a conversation with other pet owners.

## #59

If possible, talk to potential neighbors before you move to an area.



## #60

In between bursts of unpacking, take a walk outside and explore the area or introduce yourself to the neighbors.

## #61

Watch the local news to learn about what's happening in the community near you.

## #62

If you haven't moved yet, live news streams and Youtube videos about the area can prove valuable.

## #63

Subscribe to a small local paper (or start reading its website).



## #64

Use your GPS to get around, and switch it off once you've memorized the area.

## #65

Show up to events you don't know anything about and start asking questions. You might be surprised how well this works!

## #66

Invite your new co-workers to lunch to get to know them better.



## #67

Throw a house-warming party or an unpacking party.



## #68

Use websites like Couchsurfing or Meetup to find people with common interests.

## #69

Take a local class or join a club to meet link-minded people.



## #70

Be approachable. Remember something as simple as saying hello goes a long way

## #71

Keep exploring and trying new things! Meeting new people will come naturally.

## #72

Provide loved ones with a virtual tour of your new home with Skype or FaceTime.

## #73

Don't lose touch! Use video calls and social media to stay connected to old friends and family

a long way.



menus and family.

# KIDS & PETS

Moving is stressful enough for grown adults -- it can be even more challenging for small children and pets who might be used to their routines. To make the transition as painless and comfortable as possible, follow these guidelines.

**#74**

Talk with your children about the move, as far in advance as possible.



**#75**

Children may cry or get upset at their new home. Be supportive and patient. They'll need time to adjust.

**#76**

Pack your children's room last, and consider unpacking it first.

**#77**

Take your kids on a guided tour of the new house.



**#78**

Point out positive things in the neighborhood your children might enjoy.

**#79**

Let your kids be part of the unpacking and decorating process.



**#80**

If possible, crate-train your pets from an early age.

**#81**

Take your dog for walks in the area to acclimate them (and meet new people).

**#82**

Arrange play dates for your kids with the neighbors.



**#83**

As soon as possible, make your new home familiar and comfortable for pets and kids.

**#84**

Don't change your pets' food, bedding, or routine just before or during a move.

**#85**

Sign your kids up for extracurricular activities as soon as possible so they can stay busy.

**#86**

Library story time can keep kids occupied and help them find friends.

**#87**

If you have cats, let them explore the house at their own pace.

**#88**

Make sure all your pets know where their food, water, box and toys are.

**#89**

Take your kids to the local park so they can run off some energy.



**#90**

Get the TV unpacked so the kids can unwind with a favorite movie or game.





# COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

One of the best ways to truly feel involved with your new hometown is to get involved with your local community. Not only is it another great way to meet new people, but it's also a great way to stay active and get a sense of fulfillment from "giving back."

## #91

Listen to local radio for advertisements on events or activities.

## #92

Look for event fliers at restaurants and coffee shops.



## #93

Explore! Get out and try new places to eat, shop and play.



## #94

Make an effort to get to know your neighbors by having them over for dinner or going out for a cup of coffee.

## #95

Ask locals for their favorite restaurants and stores.



## #96

Join a book club or other type of organization that interests you.

## #97

Meet new people through volunteer or church activities.

## #98

Call the local United Way to learn about volunteer opportunities.



## #99

Get involved with local sports, either for yourself or your kids.

## #100

Join a gym or a fitness class to meet new people.

## #101

Check out the local museums.



## #102

To stave off homesickness, meet new people early on.

## #103

Use Facebook groups and Twitter to connect with other locals.



## #104

Settle in quickly so people can come visit your new home.

## #105

Volunteer at a retirement home, food bank, animal shelter, day care center, or youth organization.



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