Helpful Tips When Moving Moves Into or Out of California



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1. Confirm the Moving Company is Licensed

When moving household goods into and out of California, all movers must have a permit issued by the California Bureau of Household Goods and Services (BHGS) and a license from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. Check to be sure the mover is licensed, in active status, in good standing, and insured: www.bhgs.dca.ca.gov and <a href="https:/

2. Request an In-Person Visual Inspection

Though not legally required, if you request an estimate we strongly recommend an in-person inspection, rather than via video or photos, to make sure it's accurate. Be wary of a phone estimate.

3. Get Multiple Estimates

It's always good to comparison shop. Be sure the estimate includes the total charges and notes whether it is binding or non-binding.

4. Understand the Difference Between Binding and Non-Binding Estimates

- **Binding**: A written agreement that guarantees the total cost of the move based on the estimate, unless you request additional services.
- **Non-Binding**: An estimate of the cost of the move based on the estimated weight of the shipment; the final cost will be determined by the actual weight of the shipment.

Any change orders should also be in writing and signed by both parties before any goods are loaded onto the moving truck.

5. Take Inventory of Your Belongings

Take notes and photographs of your belongings before and during the move, and be sure to move any irreplaceable items yourself (i.e., important documents, family photos, jewelry, etc.). The mover must also provide you an itemized inventory that you can verify.

If something goes wrong during your move, you can file a complaint with BHGS online (www.bhgs.dca.ca.gov) or by calling (916) 999-2041 (option 5).

