

getting an estimate

MAKE A GOOD MOVE

An estimate lists all the services included in the move and their costs. Once you've accepted it, the estimate is both an agreement and the blueprint for your move.

Take responsibility for the accuracy of the estimate – a reputable mover will do its best to live up to its terms. Make sure you've covered all the details too.



Get two or three written estimates, 30 to 45 days ahead of moving day.

It pays to compare moving companies and their rates. And, get it in writing to avoid surprises. A verbal agreement provides no guarantees.

Expect an onsite inspection.

An inspection lets the mover see your goods and any challenges at your location. Ask for a business card. Some may offer an estimate over the phone, but you and the mover will benefit from a visual inspection.

Provide the estimator with as much detail as possible.

List everything you want moved – remember attics, basements, garages, storerooms and garden sheds. Are there stairways or elevators at your destination? Give the date(s) and locations for your move.

Ask how the estimator calculates the costs involved.

The cost of a local move may be based on an hourly or flat rate for the entire move. A long distance move depends on weight and mileage. Is HST included?

Review all of the optional services and products available.

Do you want to add services like packing? For do-it-yourself moves, are boxes and packing materials included? What about specialty boxes for wardrobes, mattresses, mirrors and pictures?

Look for company contact information, the date and a signature.

Is the estimate on company letterhead with the name of your estimator? Does it list everything you agreed to, including the estimated number of boxes and furnishings and their value, the cost, and terms of payment? Don't sign if it is missing any details.

Avoid moving and storage companies that insist on cash payments.

It's tempting to hire companies that promise cut rates and no taxes. But how much are you saving if your bargain movers lose, damage or never deliver your goods?

