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MOVING | RELOCATION | LOGISTICS

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An Interstate Agent for North American Van Lines

The Essential Guide to Long-Distance Moving



Table of Contents

- Introduction 2**
- Part 1: Plan Your Move 2**
 - Gather Important Documents 2
 - Essential Document Checklist 2
 - Learn About Your Future Community 3
 - Comparison of McLean, VA, And Chapel Hill, NC 3
 - Income Tax Rates By State 4
 - Create a Relocation Timeline..... 5
 - Budget For Expenses..... 6
 - Notify People that You’re Moving..... 6
- Part 2: Find a New Home 7**
 - Explore Your New Location 7
 - Determine Your Wants And Needs..... 7
 - Download: New Home Needs and Wants Worksheet..... 7
 - Work With A Real Estate Agent And Leverage Online Resources..... 8
 - Using Zillow To Explore Chapel Hill, NC..... 8
- Part 3: Hire A Professional Interstate Moving Company 9**
 - Identify Reputable Moving Companies Review Sites 9
 - Download: Your Rights and Responsibilities When You Move 9
 - Obtain Moving Quotes 10
 - Book Your Move..... 10
 - How To Verify A USDOT Number 10
 - Download: Comparing Moving Companies 10
- Part 4: Organize Your Belongings.....11**
 - Declutter And Downsize..... 11
 - Sell, Donate, Store, or Discard 11
 - Packing Strategies..... 12
 - Secure Important Documents and Valuables 12
 - Expert Packing Tips 12
 - Last to Pack / First To Open 12
 - Label Boxes And Create An Inventory List..... 13
- Part 5: Making The Transition.....14**
 - New Town, New Rules..... 14
 - Moving Day 14
- Conclusion14**

Introduction

A long-distance move is an exhilarating journey filled with anticipation for what lies ahead. Whether you're relocating for a job, education, or a change of scenery, a long-distance move comes with a unique set of challenges and opportunities.

Because we recognize the significance of this transition, we created "The Essential Guide to Long-Distance Moving" to equip you with the knowledge and tools necessary to navigate your move successfully.

This guide emphasizes the importance of meticulous planning and preparation and walks you through each step of the moving process with clarity and confidence. From researching your destination and organizing your belongings to hiring a moving company, we cover all aspects of the journey to ensure a seamless transition.

With a structured approach and practical advice, this guide will be a trusted companion, helping you tackle the complexities of moving between states while minimizing stress and maximizing efficiency. Whether you're a seasoned mover or embarking on your first interstate relocation, our comprehensive guide is designed to empower you every step of the way.

Let this guide be your roadmap as you embark on the next chapter of your life.

Part 1: Plan Your Move

Gather Important Documents

Establish a move folder for essential documents related to your relocation to keep them organized and easily accessible. From estimates and receipts to passports and birth certificates, your move folder keeps everything you need in one safe place. Maintaining comprehensive records will help you stay on top of things and reduce stress. Whether you prefer traditional paper files or digital storage solutions, establishing a central hub for your important documents will help streamline your relocation journey.



Essential Document Checklist

- Birth certificates
- Calendars
- Contact details
- Contracts
- Deadlines
- Estimates
- Expenses
- Financials
- Leases
- Logins & passwords
- Appliance manuals
- Medical records
- Passports
- Receipts
- Research
- Social Security cards
- Taxes
- Travel agenda
- Travel tickets
- Vehicle records
- Vet records
- Warranties
- Wills

Learn About Your Future Community

Familiarize yourself with the culture, climate, cost of living, job market, and amenities of your destination. Online resources like city websites, forums, and social media groups provide useful insights from locals.

When choosing a neighborhood, consider proximity to family and friends, recreational activities, and healthcare facilities and how they align with your lifestyle. Thorough research lays a solid foundation for a smooth transition and enhances your ability to feel at home in your new abode.

Comparison of McLean, VA, And Chapel Hill, NC

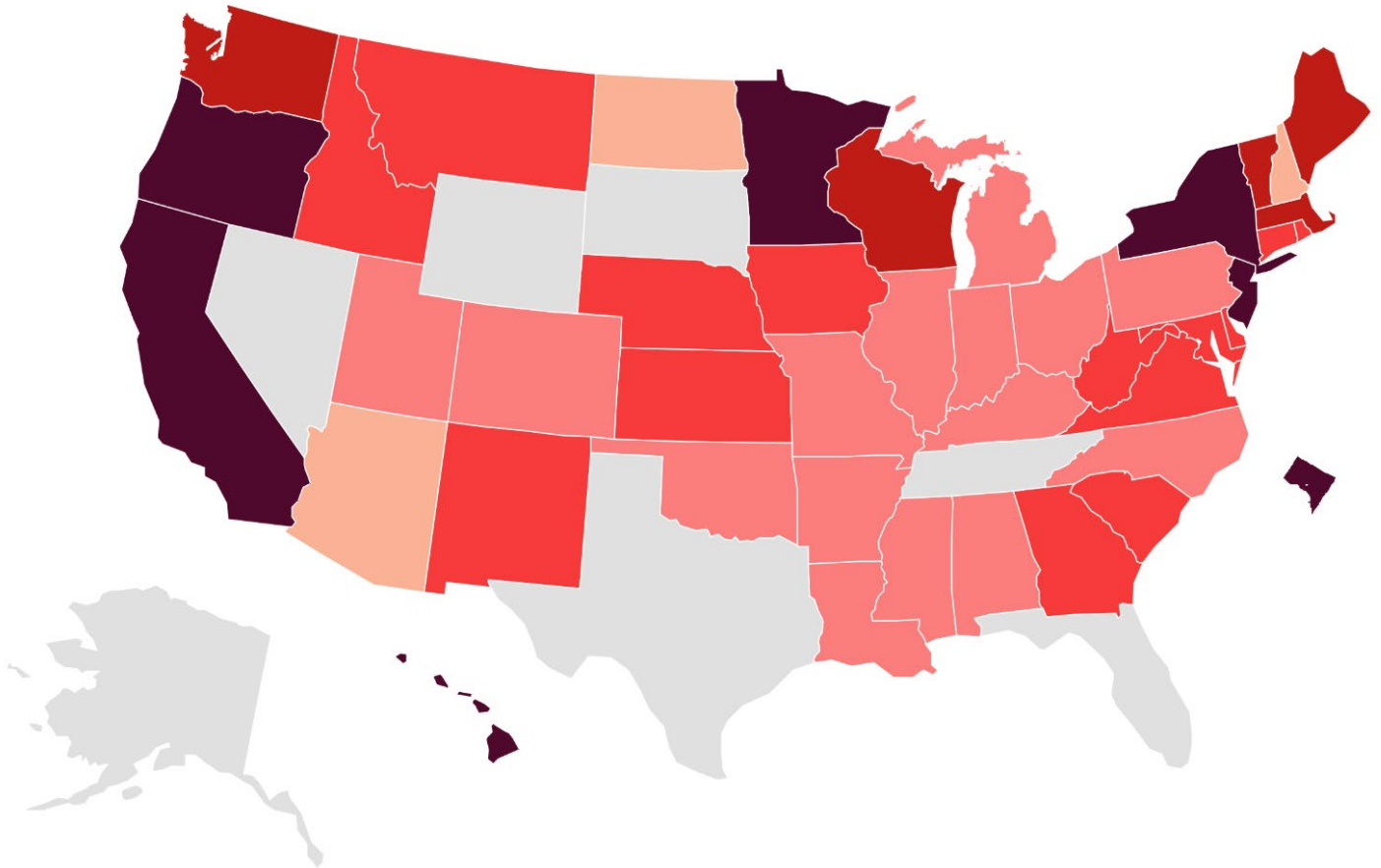
City		Cost of Living	Median HH Income	Median Property Value	State Income Tax	Median Property Taxes	Patient to Clinician Ratios	Violent Crime	Property Crime
McLean	VA	149.7	\$242,610	\$1,100,000	5.75%	\$14,784	901:1	12.2	25.8
Chapel Hill	NC	107.8	\$77,037	\$454,300	4.75%	\$9,919	532:1	11.8	33.4



Income Tax Rates By State

Top income tax rates by state

● 0% ● 0.1-3% ● 3.01-5% ● 5.01-7% ● 7.01-9% ● 9.01% and up



(*) State has a flat income tax.

(**) State only taxes interest and dividends income.

(†) State only taxes capital gains income.

(‡) Includes a 1.1 percentage point payroll tax that applies exclusively to wage (not investment) income.
















































Sources: Tax Foundation; state tax statutes, forms and instructions; Bloomberg Tax

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AARP

Create a Relocation Timeline

Start by listing all of the things you'll need to do such as scheduling the move, transferring utilities, and packing. Set deadlines for each task based on factors like your move date and lease or contract agreements. You may find online tools or smartphone apps helpful for staying organized. Having a detailed plan will streamline your move, reduce stress, and ease the transition to your new home.

 Home Owners  Home Renters		 Click to Download Printable PDF		ASAP	8 weeks before the move	6 weeks before the move	4 weeks before the move	2 weeks before the move	Move Date	2 weeks after the move
		Familiarize yourself with your new community and find a home								
		Find a real estate agent and work with them to get your house on the market								
		Review your lease and notify your landlord in writing of your intent to vacate								
		Get quotes from 3 reliable moving companies and book your move								
		Establish utilities, find schools, primary care physicians, banks, auto insurance, and other essential services in your new community								
		Notify your existing schools of the move, register at your new school, transfer academic records, and prepare learners for success								
		Notify utilities, USPS, healthcare providers, auto and homeowners or renters insurance, banks, and other service providers of your departure and provide them with your new address								
		Donate or sell non-essentials and pack everything you will be moving								
		Disconnect utilities, do a deep clean, and touch-up repairs								
		Follow your landlord's process to transfer utilities, clean, do touch-up repairs, attend the final walkthrough, return keys, and arrange for the return of your security deposit								
		Do an initial inspection of your new home and report any issues to the landlord								
		Do a deep clean of your new home, unpack, decorate, meet the new neighbors, and settle in								

Budget For Expenses

It is essential to budget for all of the expenses involved with a move. In addition to the physical relocation of your belongings, you may also need to plan for the expense of travel, gas, lodging, meals, packing supplies, temporary storage fees, and charges related to unexpected delays or last-minute changes. Careful budgeting (that includes contingency planning) helps you be fully prepared for your long-distance move.

Notify People that You're Moving

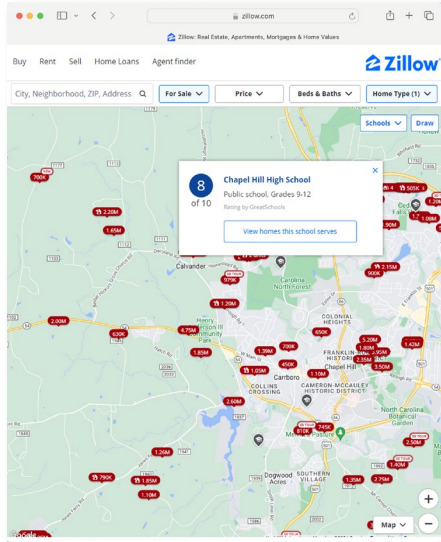
Informing your employer, schools, financial institutions, healthcare providers, and utility companies of your upcoming relocation ensures a smooth transition and minimizes disruptions. Provide them with your new address to ensure delivery of important documents. Additionally, notify friends, family, and neighbors of your move to maintain communication. Proactively informing people about your relocation, alleviates stress as you transition to your new home.



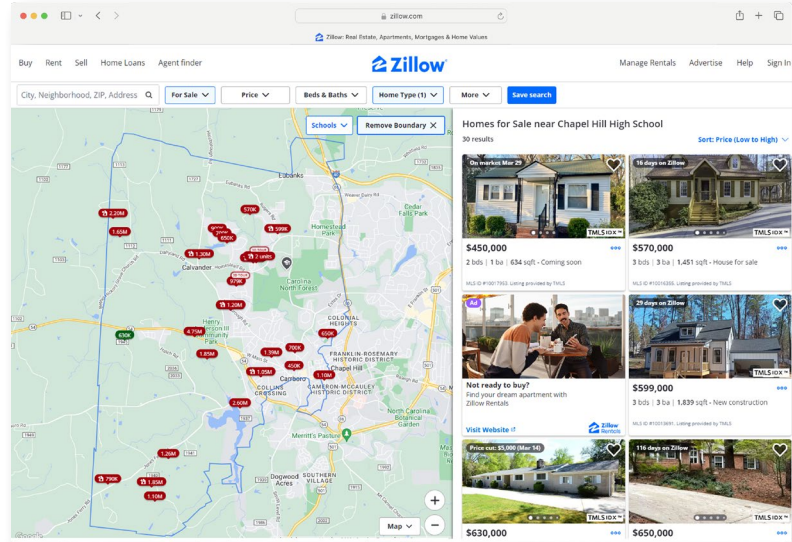
Work With A Real Estate Agent And Leverage Online Resources

Navigating a long-distance move demands a strategic approach. Work with real estate agents and utilize online resources. Begin by exploring the housing market on reputable websites and apps. Enlist the help of local agents who have in-depth knowledge of market trends and regulations and can offer guidance while facilitating property viewings, whether virtual or in person. By combining these two resources, you can confidently navigate the relocation process, ensuring a smooth transition.

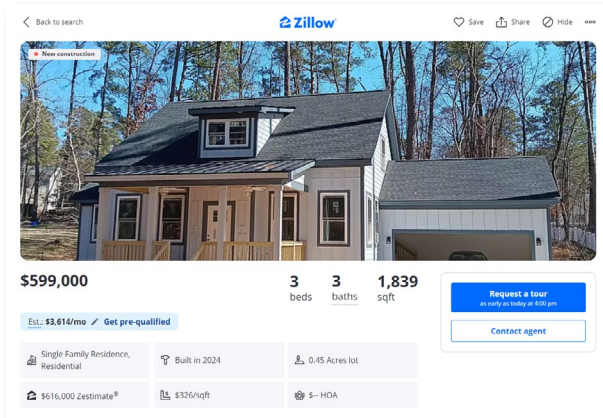
Using Zillow To Explore Chapel Hill, NC



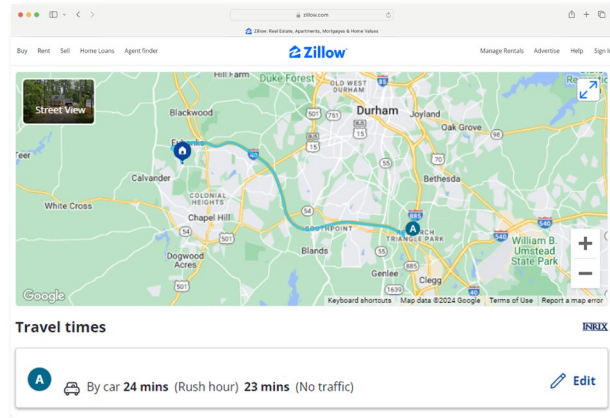
Looking for your learners to attend a particular school?



Zillow can show you the homes that fall within the school's boundary.



Choose a home you like.



Zillow can tell you how far your commute will be.

Part 3: Hire A Professional Interstate Moving Company


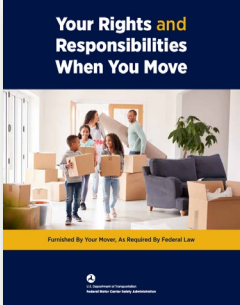
Identify Reputable Moving Companies

Begin by asking friends, family, and colleagues for moving companies they recommend. Learn what kind of move they had and what impressed them the most about the team they are recommending. Make a list of your most important concerns and expectations. Schedule in-home or virtual assessments and discuss logistics, timelines, and any special requirements with each company to ensure their estimate will be accurate.

Once you have a few personal recommendations, check out each company's website and online reviews. Prioritize movers with a solid reputation and extensive experience, validated through platforms like Google reviews, and the Better Business Bureau. Scrutinize each mover's website, social media presence, testimonials, and local business directories to gain comprehensive insights. Look for a moving company that not only meets your logistical needs but also provides transparent communication and a commitment to reliability, ensuring a seamless transition to your new home. Utilize our comparison worksheet to evaluate estimates from multiple movers, focusing on services, pricing, and fees. Here are a few places to check:

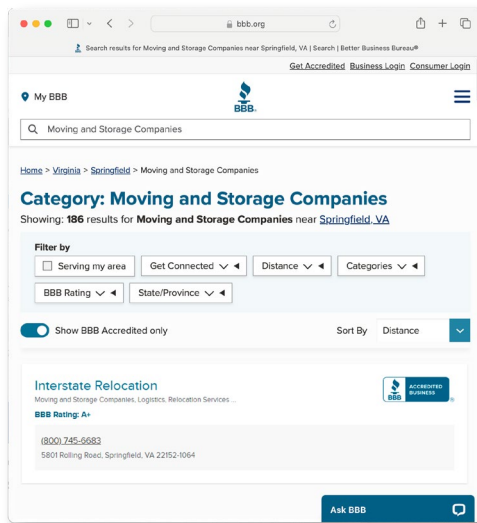
**Download:
Your Rights and Responsibilities
When You Move**

Before finalizing your decision, review the U.S. Department of Transportation's guidelines regarding your rights and responsibilities.



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Review Sites



[Better Business Bureau](#)



[Google reviews](#)



[MoveInterstate.com](#)

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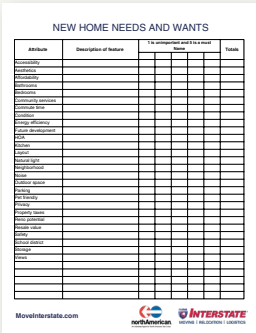
[Instagram.com](#)

Obtain Moving Quotes

After you have compiled a list of at least three recommended moving companies, contact them to request an estimate. Be sure that their quote is based on an in-person or virtual assessment to provide accurate quotes tailored to your specific needs. Carefully evaluate each estimate, considering factors like services offered, pricing structures, and any additional fees. Discuss your list of concerns and expectations with them and ask how they would address them. Are their answers satisfactory?

Contact each shortlisted company to discuss logistics, timelines, and any special requirements for your move, ensuring you choose a moving company that aligns with your needs for a smooth relocation experience.

Download: Comparing Moving Companies



[Click to Download
Printable PDF](#)

Book Your Move

For best results, book your move at least two months in advance. The best way to save money is to be flexible. The demand for moving services varies from season to season, month to month, and day of the week. As a result, a move on the last Saturday of June is likely to cost more than the same move would if it were done on a weekday in mid-March. No matter what, the sooner you book, the better your price will be.

1. Rental buildings may require a certificate of insurance (COI) from your moving company; this offers protection against things like damage to the building elevator and dents in walls. Ask if your moving company can provide one.
2. Learn as much as you can about a moving company before signing a contract — cancellation policies and liability coverage vary.
3. Select a moving company and get written confirmation of your moving date, costs, and other details.

How To Verify A USDOT Number

When moving across state lines, confirm that the mover is registered with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration and has a U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) number. You can verify their USDOT number by searching [this database](#).

USDOT INFORMATION			
Entity Type:	CARRIER/BROKER		
USDOT Status:	ACTIVE	Out of Service Date:	None
USDOT Number:	32658	State Carrier ID Number:	
MCS-150 Form Date:	11/20/2023	MCS-150 Mileage (Year):	2,356,900 (2022)
OPERATING AUTHORITY INFORMATION			
Operating Authority Status:	AUTHORIZED FOR Property, HHG		
	For Licensing and Insurance details click here .		
MC/MX/FF Number(s):	MC-1745		
COMPANY INFORMATION			
Legal Name:	INTERSTATE VAN LINES INC		
DBA Name:			
Business Address:	6841 DOW HIGHWAY		



Part 4: Organize Your Belongings

Declutter And Downsize

Maximize your home’s appeal to potential buyers with Interstate’s Clutter Buster Package. Did you know that staging can increase home sales prices by up to 5%? Our decluttering service helps create a welcoming ambiance, allowing potential buyers to visualize themselves in your space.

Enjoy secure storage and unparalleled customer service when you use the Clutter Buster Package to showcase your home clutter-free with Interstate Moving & Storage.

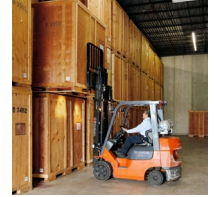
Call **844.220.MOVE** for details and pricing



2 Storage Containers



2 Professional Movers for 4 Hours



2 Months of Storage

Sell, Donate, Store, or Discard

Sell	Donate	Store	Discard
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Garage sale Craigslist Facebook Marketplace Auction Consignment Ebay Local Facebook groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food bank Schools Houses of worship Homeless shelters Habitat for Humanity Goodwill Salvation Army 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seasonal items Lawnmower Outdoor furniture Bulky furniture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Junk removal Thumbtack Shredding documents



Packing Strategies

Packing everything you own can seem overwhelming. By starting early with holiday decorations and out-of-season clothing, and then packing one room at a time, you will see gradual progress. It's good to have bubble wrap and spare linens available to pad fragile items. Although collecting used boxes from nearby stores may seem convenient, you will fare far better with uniformly sized moving boxes that are designed for packing dishes, glasses, TVs, books, and everything else. And, they will be free from bugs and residue. Packing tape and markers are also essential tools. By employing strategic packing strategies, you'll streamline the moving process and ensure that your belongings arrive safely.

Time flies. Are you running out of time to pack? Let Interstate Moving & Storage help you with last-minute packing so you can focus on what matters most to you.

Secure Important Documents and Valuables

Safeguard your most valuable possessions during the transition to your new home. Gather essential identification documents, financial records, fine jewelry, heirlooms, and sentimental items and place them in a secure location. By prioritizing the security of important documents and valuables, you'll have peace of mind knowing that your most cherished belongings are protected throughout the moving journey.

Expert Packing Tips

- Take pictures of your valuable and fragile items
- Take photos of the wiring for your electronics setup.
- Label cables at each end to aid reconnection
- Remove light bulbs from lamps
- Get help packing lamps, vacuums, microwaves, blenders, TVs, and computers
- When disassembling furniture, place loose hardware in a baggie and tape it to the item.

Last to Pack / First To Open

These are a few items that will make your first night in your new home a little easier.

- Bedding
- Clothes
- Dishtowel
- Dishwashing liquid
- Flashlights
- Laundry detergent
- Light bulbs
- Paper plates
- Paper towels
- Pillows
- Scissors
- Shower curtains
- Snacks
- Toilet paper
- Toiletries
- Tools
- Trash bags



Label Boxes And Create An Inventory List

There are two standard approaches to packing, basic box labeling, and comprehensive inventory lists. In either case, it is good to clearly label boxes that contain fragile or heavy items.

Basic – As you pack your belongings, use markers or labels to clearly indicate the contents of each box and the room it will go to in your new home. This will streamline the unpacking process and help movers know where to place each box upon arrival.

Comprehensive – If you want to know where everything is as soon as the moving truck is unloaded, you should use a more comprehensive system to pack. As you pack each box, note all of the contents on an inventory list. Each box will have a number which will also be on the box label. This method helps you maintain control over your belongings throughout the move and minimize the risk of misplaced or lost items. When traveling overseas, it is recommended that you limit the labels on the outside of the box to a number and the total number of boxes such as 15 of 60.



Part 5: Making The Transition

New Town, New Rules

Laws and regulations can vary quite a bit from one community to another, especially when moving long distances. Before you depart, find out if you need to obtain permits or licenses to facilitate your actual move. Ask your new homeowner's association, leasing office, local government office, or city hall if you will need any type of permit to conduct your move. It is also very important to update all of your essential documents such as driver's licenses, vehicle registrations, and voter registrations as soon as possible.

Moving Day

Waking up on the day of your move is always a bittersweet moment. You can't help but reflect on the experiences you've had at the old address while feeling excited about the new road ahead. Be sure to do one last walk through your home and be sure that everything is taken care of. Maintain communication with your moving team as they load the truck. Confirm travel and unloading dates and times as you enjoy your last moments in your old home.

Conclusion

Embarking on a long-distance move takes courage. Although there are endless possibilities, much of your future experiences is yet unknown. Recognizing the significance of this transition, we hope that this eBook has provided knowledge and tools that will help your relocation be a resounding success. The importance of planning and preparation cannot be overemphasized.

Whether you're a seasoned mover or embarking on your first interstate relocation, let this guide serve as a roadmap, guiding you toward a smooth transition and a bright future.