

Weather shouldn't be a worry when moving

By Paddy Bateman

Everyone hopes, of course, that the day of their move will be bright and breezy, warm enough to work in lightweight clothes, but breezy enough to keep the sweat down.

It would be wonderful if it worked that way all the time, but employers and Mother Nature aren't always cooperative. If you're moving for job reasons, as a significant proportion of people who move are, then that move was probably planned months in advance and you can't change the day simply because of inclement weather.

So what's the story? What do you do when the weather absolutely refuses to cooperate with your plans and timing?

"One of the first things you should do, right from when you sit down for the very first time to plan your move, is to make contingency plans for weather changes," says Jack Griffin, the head of marketing for Allied Van Lines. "It's not as difficult, or as far-fetched, as most people think," he adds, "because you've really only got the seasonal variations to take into account. You simply can't forget that they exist, however, because the minute you do, something's going to happen to disrupt all your carefully laid plans."

What's the very first thing to do?

"If your mover doesn't mention the possibility of weather changes, you have to," says Griffin. "It's not going to make you very happy if you find yourself watching your newly-upholstered furniture being carried around to the truck or van in the rain or snow, with no protection at all."

There are a number of things that can be done to protect furniture, clothing, etc. during a move, regardless of whether it's one being handled by a professional agent like one of Allied's or one with just a few friends helping out.

According to Griffin, if you're having professionals move you, then they should have materials available to protect your possessions. Allied stretch-wraps all upholstered furniture in clear plastic to protect it, as well as covering all furniture in pads for extra protection. Runners are used in all moves in order to protect carpets and floors.

In the event that your move is not done by professionals you should have some heavy-duty plastic or vinyl, as well as clean drop cloths, available. The only other thing you'll need is heavy-duty wrapping or masking tape to seal the plastic around the things you want to protect. Don't try using ordinary household tape; it's not strong enough to hold and the adhesive breaks down when it gets wet.

Clothing is usually well-protected against inclement weather if you have it moved in wardrobe boxes that Allied or any other professional mover has to offer. If you're moving the stuff across the street yourself, gather them into manageable groups, wrap them in plastic so that it extends over both the hangar and the hemline, and carry them to your new home. "Manageable", by the way, means a sensible load that can be handled easily.

When you arrive at your new home, unwrap at least the first few items carefully, and either use the plastic to protect your new floors or store it away so you'll have it for the next time.

"Bad weather should never mean anything more than a minor inconvenience to someone who's moving," concludes Griffin. "That's why you should make sure your mover is prepared to protect your things with the same care you would. And if it's not offered, ask for it. No one will be offended, and if they are, why are you moving with them?"



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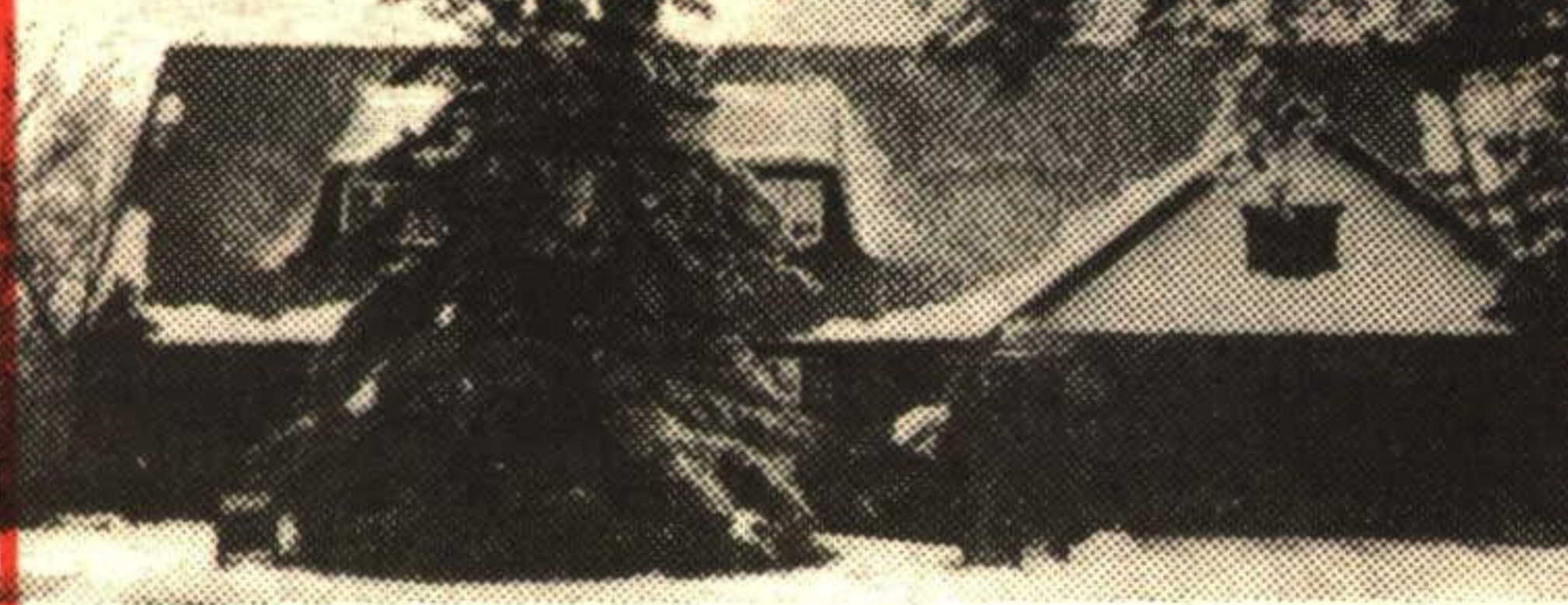
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