

Should you hire a mover? Things to consider first

If you're getting ready to move, it's time to step back and take a careful look at the situation before you make any decisions about how you're going to move or who's going to move you. Failure to do so could result in a very unhappy adventure and cost you more money than you'd believe.

If you're just moving around the block or across town, it's wise to think twice about doing it yourself. You may think that all it's going to cost you is the truck rental and a case of beer for your friends who help, but statistics show that 86 per cent of people who have moved themselves would never do it again and that often they spent more than they would have had they had the job done professionally. What's often forgotten by those who think self-moves are inexpensive are the unexpected costs associated with vehicle rental overtime, extra insurance, breakage and damage.

The first thing you should really do, regardless of how far you're moving, is to take a look at your options. Moves can be a simple

exercise in cost-conscious management, or they can be a logistical budget-busting nightmare, and the one making the decisions (you) is most often the deciding factor.

Too many people make moving decisions too quickly, especially those who are being transferred. They get notice they have to move and the whole household is in an immediate uproar. Rarely do they take the time to think about the situation, or to write down an actual plan of what they're going to do.

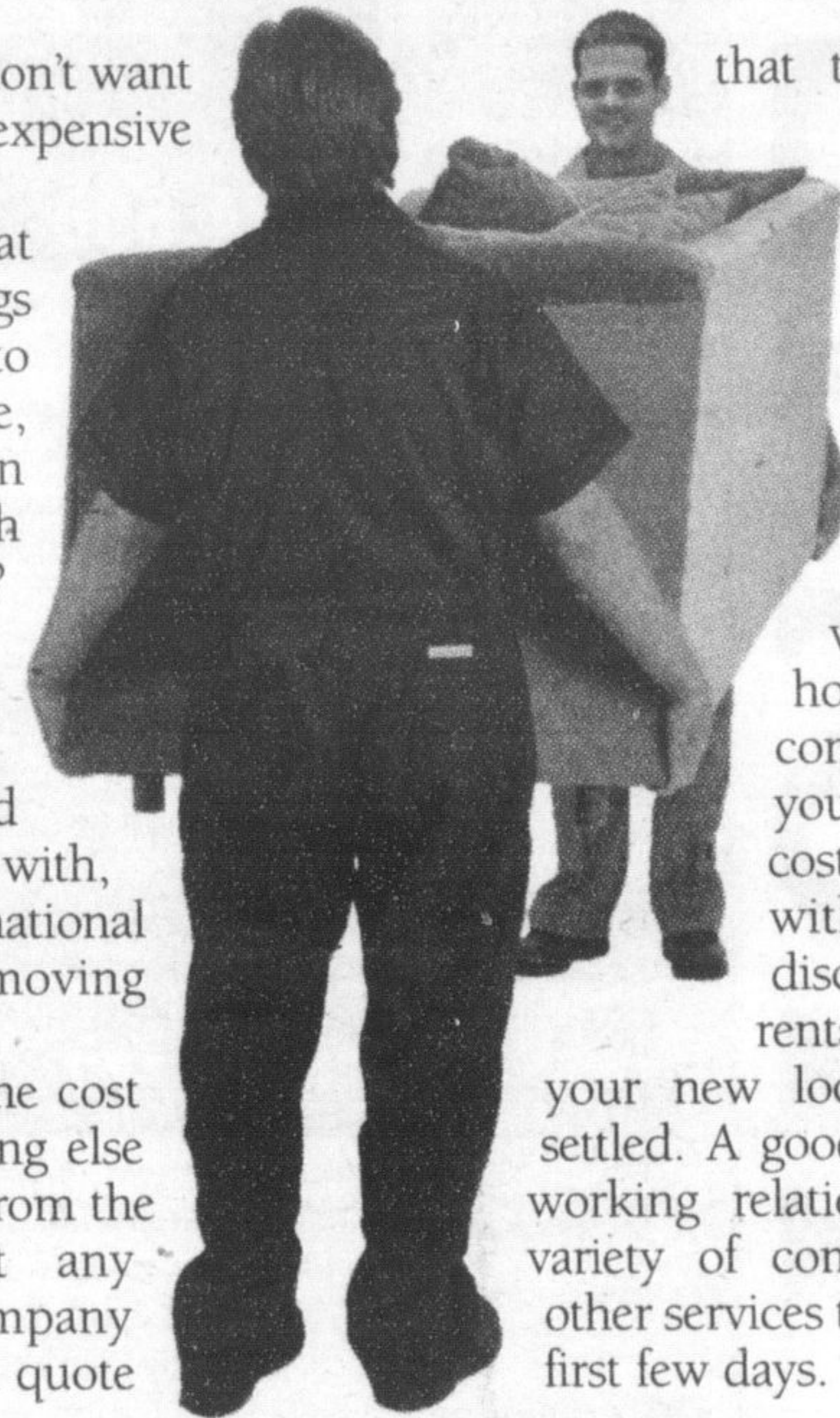
According to experts, the biggest mistake home owners make when they're getting ready for a move is in the selection of who's going to move them. Too often the decision is made on price alone.

The Yellow Pages are an excellent resource in which to find who the movers are in a particular area, but they should certainly not be your only resource. An advertisement, whether it's in a phone book or a billboard, simply won't give you the kind of information you need in order to make a sensible decision about who should move you. You've got to do

a lot of homework if you don't want to set yourself up for an expensive fall.

When looking at movers, there's a few things you should make sure to check out. For example, how long have they been in business? How much experience do they have? Have they handled your type of move before? Do they have regular, full-time, professionally trained staff? Are they associated with, or agents of, any of the national or international moving companies?

Money, in terms of the cost of your move, is something else you should look at right from the start. You don't want any surprises. Is the company willing to give you a firm quote



that they'll live with? Do they carry the kind of insurance you need to fully protect your valuables? Have they had a problem with losses or pilferage?

There are also the important little extras. Like being able to guarantee that your goods will be delivered to your new home on time. Another is the company's willingness to help you absorb some of the extra costs that are always associated with a move. Things like discounted rates for automobile rentals, and motels and meals in

your new location while you're getting settled. A good mover will normally have working relationships established with a variety of companies offering these and other services that are so important in those first few days.



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