

Plan your next move

Moving to a new home is an exciting time for many people. But the move itself, if not planned properly, can lead to frustration and additional costs.

The most effective way to move your possessions is to plan your move carefully. Here is a list of the things that should be considered when it's time to move.

* Choose a moving company at least one month before your move date. Spring and summer are traditionally busy times for moving companies, and so an extra few weeks' notice is recommended.

* Make sure that all your paperwork is in order. Get all medical records forwarded if applicable. If you have children, forward school records to the new school.

* Inform the phone company, utility company, and post office of your new address. All gas and electrical appliances should be disconnected by qualified professionals.

* Pack up your belongings in appropriate boxes which are clearly marked.

* When packing valuable or fragile items, make sure to put enough padding around them. Bubble

wrap works well in protecting pictures, vases, etc. Use a marker to write the contents of boxes on the top and sides.

* Children may be traumatized by the move, so you may want to involve them. Let them pack up their room and their special treasures. Speak enthusiastically about the positives in moving to a new home.

* If you are hiring a moving company, make sure that adequate parking space is available for trucks.

* If you have pets, make sure that you arrange for them to be off the premises the day of the relocation.

* Change your motor vehicle information.

* Change voter registration



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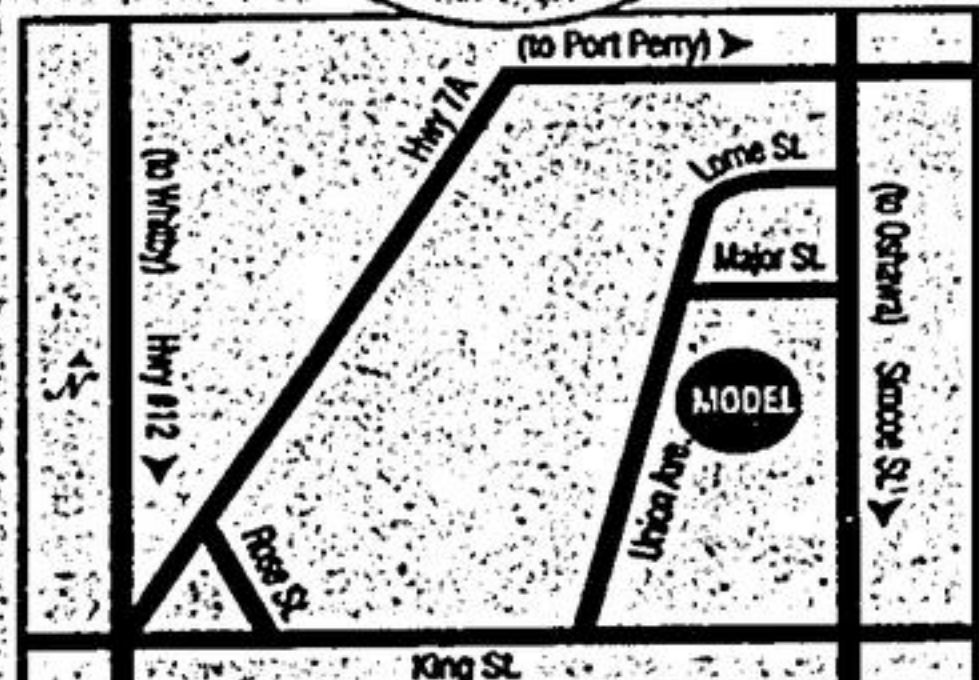
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Candles can help to create a special atmosphere at home

Candles have been around since Biblical times, and throughout the ages they have taken on many different meanings. Whether you enjoy candles for purely decorative purposes or want to set the mood for a special occasion, candles are sure to enhance the experience.

Here are a few tips about the care and handling of candles that may come in useful.

* Candles fade if exposed to light for extended periods of time. Avoid placing them in front of a window or a bright indoor spotlight.

* Keep candles away from drafts, as drafts will create larger flames and shorten the life of the candle.

* Trim wicks to a 1/4" from the wax to maximize burning time.

* Votive candles must be in a container as they are made of low melt wax. Candles with tighter fits will burn longer.

* Votive burning can be a fun experience, but the cleanup takes some time. This aggravation can be eliminated by placing 1/8" of tap water in the base of the votive holder prior to lighting the candle. After the votive candle is extinguished, let the wax solidify. The wax and its contents should then pop loose.

* Floating candles can be used to create either a formal or informal setting for a dinner party, or a backyard gathering. Use a clear bowl to enhance the special lighting effect. Distilled water is preferred as it eliminates the mineral buildup on the side of the glass.

* Candles will burn more slowly if they are refrigerated before being lit. They can be wrapped in plastic or foil before refrigerating to avoid moisture seeping into the wick.

* When you light a pillar candle, try to create a pool of wax across the diameter of the candle. This will allow the candle to burn longer and more evenly (a pillar candle is a candle with a thick geometrical cross section which can take the form of an oval, a hexagon or a circle or any other shape).

* Extinguish candles when they get within two inches of the candle holder or decorations.

