



Selecting A Mover

All movers are not created equal. We suggest you take the following measure to find the mover that is right for you.

- **Request references** on individual firms from the Better Business Bureau, the Moving and Warehouseman's Association, local consumer affairs offices. Most importantly,
- **Ask friends for references.**
- When speaking to your perspective mover, **ask about their hiring process.** Some companies use what is called "pick-up help." These workers are not trained movers nor have their backgrounds been screened.
- Check to see that they were in **last year's yellow pages.**
- Ask how many **years they have been in business.**
- Ask if they guarantee the **accuracy of their estimates.**
- Ask about **crew punctuality** and **damage claim ratios.**
- Ask what **equipment is standard on their vans.** A professional company will have vans equipped with moving pads, dollies and security straps plus specialty equipment for items such pianos and appliances.
- **Visit one of their offices.**
- A company with a good reputation **will not knock the competition** in order to look good.
- A well established company **will comply with standard government regulations as a business and employer.**
- **Beware of companies who deliberately use vague details and low hourly rate quotes.** You should have enough specific information to compare and if the rate quoted is considerably lower than that of other companies you may want to double check references.

We invite comparison by an educated customer.

Beltway Movers will gladly mail you a brochure published by the Interstate Commerce Commission entitled "Your Rights and Responsibilities When You Move" and/or one from the Virginia Movers and Warehousemen's Association entitled, "Making A Better Move In Virginia. We can also provide you with a helpful "Move Day Procedures" checklist and an independent customer survey of movers, which was published in the Washington Consumer Checkbook.

Beltway Movers require a [customer comment card](#) on every one of its over 5000 moves per year. Over 55 percent of Beltway's business is the result of repeat customers or direct referral.



There are some things you should do before calling Beltway--or any company.

Know what you plan to move

Whether you prefer an estimate by phone or in-home estimate, insist that the mover provide an itemized list of everything, which will need to be moved. This list should include all items, which will not fit into a standard size box. The mover should also provide you with an estimated number of cartons needed--regardless of whether you pack or they do. They should also specify any large or unique items and how the items will be prepared and handled.

Handling Conditions

A professional mover will take into consideration the conditions under which the move will take place. Obviously, it will take longer to load from a third floor apartment in a courtyard than an equal volume from a home with driveway parking.

Be realistic

Consider which type of move is best for you. Consider your time schedule, resources, and health when determining how involved you want to be in the move process.

A company should be able to supply in writing

- ✓ the approximate poundage and or the cubic footage
- ✓ the size of crew required
- ✓ an itemized furniture list
- ✓ a detailed explanation of additional services requested
- ✓ and an itemized estimate of total cost.

You will then have a basis from which to compare cost and services not just hourly rates.

The Four Basic Moves Often Handled By Beltway Movers

TYPE ONE:

This type of move is for the person who has very little time to deal with the inconveniences of moving. If this is you--then choose a company that will be able to pack and move everything. A select group of companies can also insure that your belongings will be unpacked and placed in their proper places. You can literally leave



home at one address and return home to a fully furnished new address with this plan. It's very convenient and Beltway helps you take this expensive approach affordably.

TYPE TWO:

This is the most popular choice. With this type of move, you do your own packing, the dismantling of special items and in general try to eliminate the time consuming tasks movers might need to do on move day. This option allows you the luxury of doing things in your own style. Select a mover who is willing to transport the furniture, cartons and other household items that you have readied.

TYPE THREE:

This move requires the customer to move everything except the larger items, which require the expertise and equipment of a professional mover. This is a cost conscious choice and requires you to be extremely cautious in selecting a mover. Many large companies are not willing to perform this type of move and "cheaper" movers may be unable to provide the quality crew required to give you the "furniture only" handling expertise you need.

TYPE FOUR:

Everybody join in! This type of move can be the best of both worlds. If you and your friends are willing to work along with the crew--we are delighted to have you. Your help will reduce the number of hours and consequently the cost of the move. By choosing us instead of doing it all by yourself, you receive the use of a fully equipped van, an experienced driver and professional advice from the move crew.

We are pleased to have the opportunity to provide you with information, which we know, will prove helpful as you plan your move. The more you understand about the move process the less stressful it will be for you.

Need More Help?
Ask to speak to a move consultant.
Virginia, call 703-971-3550
Maryland, call 301-340-2310