

MOVING IDEAS

Moving Musts: Five Things To Do Before Moving Into A New Home

(NAPSA)—In any given year, 40 to 50 million Americans will relocate their residences. Summer is the most popular time for moving as children are out of school, parents are on vacation and college students are gearing up to go back to campus. Moving can be a stressful task for the whole family, both emotionally and physically. One way to simplify the process and minimize stress levels is to go into the new home and prepare it for the moving process. Since you are unsure of what was there before, it's important to clean from top to bottom before unpacking. Cleaning before the boxes are unpacked and furniture is unloaded will limit any unnecessary rearranging and extra work. Follow these simple steps and you will be on your way to making a successful move into your new, clean home.

❑ **Gather the cleaning agents of your choice.** Assess what needs to be cleaned. Make sure that you have products that will be safe to use on multiple surfaces. Avoid the hassles of multiple bottles and containers by purchasing a multi-purpose cleaner such as Clorox's Formula 409 (www.clorox.com).

❑ **Clean out shelves, drawers and cupboards.** These areas collect dirt, dust, mold, bacteria and food particles and you never know how often the previous homeowners cleaned them. Once these areas are wiped down, cleaned and disinfected, place shelf liners in drawers, cupboards and on shelves. Shelf liner will provide a safe barrier between surfaces and belongings, protecting them from bacteria and mold that may have built up over time. It also cushions breakables and adds a touch of color to accent any room. Duck brand Easy Liner® shelf liners offer a variety of styles to fit specific needs (www.duckproducts.com). The non-adhesive varieties can be removed easily without damaging the surface and are convenient to clean—either in the washing machine or with a damp cloth. For more information on Duck brand Easy Liner Shelf Liner call



(800) 321-0253.

❑ **Clean the floors.** Floors need the same attention as shelves, drawers and cupboards, but need to be cleaned more frequently. Sweep the dry dust and dirt with a broom before adding floor cleaner. Look for a mop that makes your job easier, like the O'Cedar Power Twist™ Self-Wringing Cloth Mop (www.ocadoar.com). The mop has grooves that grab the cloth strips for improved wringing efficiency, limiting the amount of dirty water that is re-applied to the floor.

❑ **Vacuum areas with carpeting.** Use a vacuum with different attachments to clean hard to reach areas such as corners, staircases and baseboards. These areas tend to collect dirt, dust and crumbs. To deep clean carpeted areas, try the Dirt Devil® Easy Steamer® vacuum (www.dirtdevil.com). The Easy Steamer® evenly sprays cleaning solutions onto the carpet, allowing for the carpet to dry quickly.

❑ **Have a toolbox with basic tools for quick fixes.** Moving almost always requires some quick fix-up projects. In order to make these repairs, you should have a small, portable toolbox like Stanley's Husky® brand with basic tools (www.stanley.com). These tools should include: hammer, nails, flat head and Phillips head screwdriver, wrench, pliers, level and tape measure. Make sure to have duct tape handy in case you need a temporary repair.

A lot of time and energy go into making a move, but the job can be more efficient and less stressful when steps are taken to simplify and organize the process. Once the home is prepared and all of the belongings are safely moved into the new residence, it will be well on the way to becoming a