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STORAGE TIPS FOR CONSUMERS

When selecting a storage facility be sure to check:

- Security features (Cameras, alarms, gates, lighting, access controls and maintenance schedules).
- “Curb Appeal” and Cleanliness (Restrooms are a good barometer).
- Service offered: (Delivery Acceptance, Invoicing, Online and or Automatic payment options, Storage Insurance, parking, convenience load and unload, availability of material handling equipment (carts, dollies etc).
- Office hours and Access hours.
- Pest-control
- Required deposit and administration fees.
- Climate control self-storage availability for those temperature sensitive items.
- Lease terms
- Friendly knowledge staffing.
- Resident management

Prepare your goods for storage

- Make an inventory and take photos for your records.
- **Blankets, Draperies and Clothing** - have blankets, draperies and out-of-season clothing cleaned, and then pack them right on the hanger in a wardrobe box.
- **Books** - pack them flat, not standing on end (which may damage the spines). Books are extremely heavy, so don't pack too many in one box or mix them with fragile items.
- **Lawn Mowers and Powered Yard Equipment** - drain gasoline and oil from all small engines.
- **Mirrors and Pictures** - large pieces should be stored in specially designed boxes. Smaller pictures can be wrapped in bubble wrap or packing paper and stored in boxes with clothing or linens.
- **Mattresses** - protect them and your furniture with plastic mattress covers and stand them on end.
- **Furniture and Tables** - place a pallet or plastic sheet on the floor and stand sofas on end. Disassemble beds and tables to save storage space. Wrap with furniture pads to protect from soil and scratches. Wrap table legs in paper pads and if possible, tape them to the protective wrap around the corresponding item. Place a bed sheet over your furniture as a dust cover.
- **Photos** - old photographs tend to curl over time. To keep them flat, place them between two pieces of cardboard and tape them together. Do not store irreplaceable photos. Negatives take up little space. Consider keeping them with you.

- **Appliances** - a refrigerator or freezer should be thoroughly dry and stored with its door slightly ajar. Nonperishable goods may be stored inside large appliances and boxes can be stacked on top of stoves, refrigerators and freezers. Make sure that stoves and cooking equipment are cleaned before they are stored.

Organize your storage unit

- Leave a few inches of space between your items and the wall for better ventilation.
- Gather the things you are least likely to need during the time you are storing your belongings. Place these items in the room first.
- Store heaviest items on the bottom and lighter items on the top. Place cartons so that you can read the label which lists their contents.
- Use dresser tops for stacking cartons and dresser drawers for linens or small, delicate items. Keep upholstery off the floor. Most lightweight chairs can be stacked "seat to seat" or placed upside down on tables that cannot be disassembled.
- Place the things you are most likely to need closest to the door for easy access.
- Label boxes. Take home a list of labeled boxes for easy reference when you need to locate your goods.
- Do not lean items against walls. Leave a walkway to the rear of your space for easy access.
- Items that could be damaged by water should be stored off the floor.
- Securely latch and lock the door to your storage room when leaving. **Never take a chance on security.** Studies have shown that most storage room thefts are done by others in storage. What do they look for? Quick, easy access to any lock that has an exposed shackle and can be cut with bolt cutters. You can protect yourself by buying a Diskus-style lock with a hasp-hugging design that prevents cutting and prying.

Do not store:

- Flammables, fuels, ammunition, paints, liquids, toxic/hazardous wastes, explosives, animals, perishables and food items

Suggestions and tips for do-it-yourself movers, best time to move and getting the best rates:

- Plan your move in advance. Since nearly 45 percent of all moves occur between Memorial Day and Labor Day, make your reservation now. We recommend making your reservations at least two to four weeks prior to your moving date.
- Most do-it-yourself movers plan their move for Friday and Saturday. Avoid the weekend rush. Typically, Sunday through Thursday offers greater equipment availability. We recommend planning your move during this time frame. **Also, rates may be lower during this time.**
- Prior to your move, stop by or contact your neighborhood U-Haul moving and storage center to get help with selecting boxes and packing supplies.
- Check out **eMove.com** to get help with packing/unpacking, loading/unloading and other moving services.
- Allow time for the rental process. Conduct a walk-around inspection of the equipment at the time of pickup to become familiar with its features and operation.

- Ask questions during the walk-around.
- Read the equipment user's guide for tips on driving and safety.
- Monitor the equipment while it is in your possession, just as you would your own personal vehicle. For instance, periodically check the oil level, tire pressures and lighting system.
- **Take advantage of the U-Haul 30-day free-storage offer prior to or after your one-way move.** Available at convenient locations throughout the U.S. and Canada.

The three most important moving tips people should know when moving items on their own:

- Plan ahead. Make your reservations as far in advance as possible. Move on a weekday if you can, when banks, utilities and government offices are open.
- U-Haul customers can make their reservations online at www.uhaul.com, call 1-800-GO-UHAUL, or they can call or stop in at one of our convenient locations listed in the Yellow Pages.
- Pack your boxes "strategically." Choose a "packing room" ahead of time and box up a few things each day. Mark each box with its contents and destination room. That way, you and your helpers will know where each box belongs at your new home. Pack items you know you'll need (sheets, towels, toiletries, tissues and a change of clothes) in your clothes hamper on moving day and you'll know just where to find them at your new place! Have all your boxes packed before you go to rent your truck.
- Load the heaviest items first, in front and on the floor. Pack items firmly and closely.
- U-Haul customers can help save money and the environment. Looking for used boxes? Want to "move out" your reusable boxes? Customers can log on to www.uhaul.com/boxexchange to post their available boxes or review messages from individuals in their area who are offering reusable boxes they may have. With every reuse of a U-Haul box, you not only keep a new box from being manufactured, you also reduce the costs associated with recycling.

The most common mistakes people make when moving:

- Not planning ahead. Waiting until the last minute to reserve a truck or trailer. Remember, summer is the busiest moving season of the year.
- Not packing their boxes ahead of time.
- Not making arrangements at their destination for unloading help.
- Moving is one of the most stressful times in a person's life. Our goal is to Make Moving Easier for them. Our center personnel and dealers are moving experts. We have been helping families move since 1945. We have more detailed tips on moving and storage on our Web site, www.uhaul.com.

Suggestions and tips on securing your rental equipment:

- Always secure the back door of the moving van with a padlock.
- Always make sure your doors are locked.
- Always park your rental equipment legally and in a well-lit area.
- Back up your rental equipment as close as possible to a garage door, building or wall and if you can, park another vehicle in front of the rental truck.
- When parking your vehicle at a hotel, we recommend that you park your equipment close to entry doors and again try to park in a well-lit area, making sure the equipment is locked.

- When parking your vehicle at a restaurant, make sure the doors are locked, the back door of the moving van is locked and park it where you can see it from the window.
- Prior to moving, look into your homeowner's insurance policy, as some policies will cover belongings while moving as long as the insurance policy is in force during the move.

Since 1945, U-Haul has been the first choice of do-it-yourself movers, with a network of more than 15,950 locations in all 50 United States and 10 Canadian provinces. U-Haul customers' patronage has enabled the U-Haul fleet to grow to more than 100,000 trucks, 78,500 trailers and 31,100 towing devices. As a result, U-Haul offers more than 384,000 rooms and more than 33.8 million square feet of storage space at more than 1,055 facilities throughout North America.

U-Haul is the consumer's number one choice as the largest installer of permanent trailer hitches in the automotive aftermarket industry. U-Haul supplies alternative-fuel for vehicles and backyard barbecues as one of the nation's largest retailers of propane.