

HINTS FOR HOMEOWNERS

Tips To Make Moving Go More Smoothly

(NAPSA)—The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that some 43 million Americans will move to a new home this year. If you're planning on being among them, there are a few steps you should take:

- **Several Months Before Moving.** Solicit estimates from several moving companies and select a reputable mover. The first and last days of the months are busiest. Determine what will and won't be moving with you.

- **Two Months Before Moving.** Locate legal and vehicle registration documents. Contact schools, doctors, dentists and lawyers and get copies of your personal records. Ensure that your homeowner's insurance covers your possessions when moving.

- **One Month Before Moving.** Submit a Change of Address form to the post office. Prepare an Inventory List of packed items to be stored or moved. Contact all utility and service providers to discontinue and re-establish service as needed.

- **Two Weeks Before Moving.** Have your vehicle serviced. Schedule elevator use as needed. Dispose of all flammable liquid items.

- **One Week Before Moving.** Clear out your safety-deposit box. Take pets to the vet. Drain gas and oil from all power equipment. Defrost and dry refrigerators and freezers. Pack a "First Night" box with personal items, bedding and fun things for the kids. Set aside valuable items to carry with you including jewelry, vital documents and money.

- **Moving Day.** Be on hand to answer any questions and work with the movers. Ensure that there's enough space in front of your home for the moving van. Do a last-minute walk-through: Turn off lights, turn down/off heat or



Many of the 43 million Americans who move to a new home this year will turn to professionally trained movers and packers to make the move easier.

A/C, close windows and lock all doors. Record all utility meter readings (gas, electric, water). Review the mover's bill of lading and inventory sheet one last time prior to signing.

- **Delivery Day.** Be on hand to answer questions, give directions, and supervise loading and unpacking. Note on the inventory any damaged boxes or obvious damage to unboxed items before you sign anything.

Many families find their move can be less stressful with the help of a reputable company that employs professionally trained movers and packers. For example, Interstate Worldwide Relocation offers moving, storage, and full service relocation services for thousands of customers worldwide, including the U.S. military. Some of the many services provided include home-marketing assistance, mortgage assistance, international destination services, and a real-time information tracking system. You can learn more online at www.InterstateWorldwide.com or by calling (800) 745-MOVE.