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## Survival tips for May, National Moving Month

May is more than flowers and baby bunnies: it's also the month that kicks off a season when more people move from one home to another than any other time of year. In fact, [according to Rent.com](#), in the months from May to September, approximately half of *all* moves take place.

For renters, data collected on California's moving habits show the top most current reasons for moving are:

1. Relocating for a job
2. Moving in with or away from family
3. Doubling up: moving in to share space with more people to cut costs (attributed to CA's 9.7% unemployment rate)
4. unemployment rate)
5. Trading up: better schools, better home, better location
6. Adding a pet to the family

And since San Francisco is largely populated by renters, tips on how to make the move less stressful are welcome. Truly, even home owners moving in this season need these tips.

[Rent.com](#) offers resources like credit checks, movers, and links to utility hook-ups. Such info is useful whether you own or rent. Similarly, [Move.com](#) offers these plus a link to rented furniture if yours broke in the move, or you left it behind, or you never had any to begin with. And of course, for the holy grail(s) of moving, the proper moving box(es), you have multiple options, including websites that offer nothing but, like [Used Cardboard Boxes.com](#) (eco and econ friendly). You might also use this list from the [Oh My Apartment \(OhMyApt\) Blog](#), which recommends five ways to get moving boxes, many of them free.



On overall survival, Rent.com offers a list of quick tips:

\* Hire or Recruit Help: Extra help can be invaluable and there are lots of different options to fit all kinds of budgets. Self service moves involve you packing and loading your belongings into boxes or a secure container and the moving service then transporting everything to your new address. With a full service move, the moving company loads the moving truck, drives your belongings to your new address and unloads the truck in your new place. Some companies will even pack your belongings for you! Depending on your budget, renting a moving truck or hiring labor can be affordable alternatives. If you cannot afford any for pay options, consider recruiting your friends and spring for pizza when the move is over!

\* Keep an Eye on Valuables: Forgetting where you packed something is a common hassle when moving. Make sure that items that are hard to replace like medications, insurance policies, car titles and the moving services contract are packed in a box that you move yourself or ship ahead of time with a service that requires a delivery signature.

\* Move Only What You Really Need. It is difficult to think about spring cleaning while you are in the midst of a move, but packing will unearth all of those items that you haven't used in months or years. Consider donating unneeded items to your local charity or help fund your moving expenses by selling them on eBay.

\* Pack Your Favorite Items Last. Creature comforts can be powerful stress relievers. Your current bedside reading, morning coffee mug or favorite DVDs can help you feel sane in the midst of chaos. If you have children, ask them to pick one or two of their favorite things to keep with them during the move as well.

\* Home Is Where the Heart Is. Although all the packing, moving and cleaning can feel a bit overwhelming while it is happening, try to envision yourself relaxing on your sofa or having a housewarming party to show off your new home to your friends. It is also important to remember how you will benefit from the reason you are moving in the first place!

That last tip is important for helping you keep your head straight as the stress piles on. Also helpful for managing stress is organization: You can find a day by day check list for organizing and planning your move [here](#).

Good luck!