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## My new home base: Bermuda

I'm moving to Bermuda, my dear readers. But I couldn't say goodbye without sharing a few details about my relocation — and of course, some advice on cleaning.

### We move for a reason



**Rent.com** lists a few common reasons people move. Those include wanting to be closer to — or farther from — family and friends, and to save on monthly expenses by either moving back home with family or living with a roommate. Some simply want a bigger and better home or need to accommodate a new pet. Still others, like my husband Damany and I, move for work-related reasons. He's accepted a job in Bermuda and, well, he can't just leave me here! It's for a short time. We'll be back. I think . . .

### Clean thoroughly even when moving out

Moving out of your home is **no excuse to stop cleaning it**. Instead, it should be an even bigger motivation to do so. And, yes, you should do this even if you're sure that whoever moves into your place after you're gone will clean it anyway. Think about it: When else will you have the opportunity to *really* look through all your belongings and sort them appropriately? That's why you should take full advantage of this time, I know I will, and make separate piles for things you'll keep, donate or trash. Then you should clean your home and the things you'll be taking to your new place so you don't take dirt with you.

### My Orlando home sets a new record

Unlike my husband who grew up in the same house most of his life, I moved more than a dozen times as a child. By the time I graduated from college, my dormroom had become the "home" I had lived in for the longest length of time — until I got married and moved to Orlando five years ago. Suddenly I found myself doing all I could to turn our house (or condo, I should say) into a home. This, as you know, is no easy feat. But it is the most rewarding. In 2007, a serendipitous twist of fate brought me and you, the readers, together through this column. The assignment couldn't have fallen into better hands, if I may say so myself. I've loved everything about it but I especially cherish your responses

when I wrote something you found humorous or helpful. I'm grateful for the opportunity, wiser after the experience and thrilled to be taking it all with me to my new home. In the meantime, I'm happy to celebrate **five years of happy living in Orlando**.