

# On the move? Think about calling the professionals

**Two Men and a Truck.** DIY moves can make the most stressful day in a person's life even worse

as much or as little of the packing and unpacking as is required and several companies will advise you and provide a full range of packing supplies.

It's important to plan ahead and arrange with the building management at both ends to book elevators and loading docks.

And always expect the unexpected. No amount of preparation can prevent something from going wrong. Remember that you are personally responsible for any damage caused to common area hallways and elevators as a result of your move. Professional movers are licensed and insured and have all the proper freight handling equipment.

Eva Szyplaska of Toronto's Two Men and a Truck. The professional moving outfit boasts 3,500 movers and 1,400 trucks nationwide with 20 local franchises in Ontario.

"I think our mentality about the business is very different. I realize we provide a moving service, but our business is about customer service," says

## Quoted

**"I realize we provide a moving service, but our business is about customer service."**

Eva Szyplaska

Szyplaska about the most stressful day in a person's life.

"A lot of things go wrong on that day and our job is to make that hardest part the quickest and easiest."

One of the things that really differentiates Two Men and a Truck from any other moving company in Canada is the Mikey On Board program.

"What we've decided to do is we've put a Mikey defibrillator on every vehicle that's out there. We're actually training the majority of our staff so they know how to use the machine in case something happens," says Szyplaska.

The challenge is now to other companies that have vehicles out in the community to do the same thing.



**CONDO TRENDS**  
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So you're ready to make the big move to your next condo. Should you move yourself or enlist the services of a professional?

You can pack your own possessions, hire a truck and enlist the services of your reluctant friends and save some money.

But many people would prefer the peace of mind afforded by a turnkey solution where the mover does it all. After all, a typical two-bedroom condo contains a lot of delicate and expensive cargo.

Some do-it-yourself moves go well, but others can go awry because of unanticipated events.

A professional moving company can help you with

## Eva's packing checklist

- When you are packing for your move, use strong boxes and containers that can be secured tightly.
- Pack audio-video equipment in their original boxes.
- Avoid loading more than 50 pounds into one box.
- Remember to pack a box of basic household supplies that you may need on moving day.
- Don't pack paint, bottles of bleach, gas cans or other flammables.
- Have rugs and draperies cleaned before packing them.
- Don't pack important



Tip number three: Keep boxes to less than 50 pounds. ISTOCK IMAGES

documents, money and jewelry in the moving truck.

and sides.

- Save room by using towels and blankets to wrap fragile items.

- Label each box on the top



Eva Szyplaska, of Toronto's Two Men and a Truck shows a Mikey defibrillator, carried on board each of their moving trucks. DUNCAN MCALLISTER/FOR METRO

## Cleaning

### Holiday spills? Check the napkin stain chart

I hate dealing with dinner napkin stains, so I tend to use paper instead, but my family hates paper napkins and is always pushing me to use my cloth napkins. First, is it OK to use paper and secondly if I use my cloth napkins how do I get the food stains out?



Cloth napkins are nicer, but more difficult to clean. ISTOCK IMAGES



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As the hostess, you can use what ever you like. Paper or cloth, it's your choice. However, cloth is always so much nicer.

So here are a few tips to make life easier. Remember, when washing your dinner napkins, you need to get the stain out before they end up in the dryer, so keep a close eye out for this.

Soaking your napkins overnight with the formulas below also really helps. Also, remember to always treat

the stains as soon as possible.

### Christmas napkin stain chart

#### Gravy

Scrape off excess, blot with paper towel, soak fabric for several hours in one cup cold water and one tablespoon liquid enzyme detergent. Rinse with clear water and launder normally as per fabric label.

#### Cranberry Sauce

Scrape off excess, rinse with lukewarm water, sponge with solution of a quarter teaspoon of PH neutral dish soap and

half a cup of warm water. Rinse with clear water and launder normally as per fabric label.

#### Lipstick

Scrape off excess, dampen stain with PH neutral dish soap and rub stain between thumb and forefinger, rinse with warm water, repeat until stain is removed and launder normally as per fabric label.

#### Chocolate

Scrape off excess, rinse from the back and rub a liquid enzyme detergent into chocolate and let soak for 30 minutes in cold water, then rinse and launder normally as per fabric label.