

Moving without a job? Here's now!

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By Cathy Goodwin, Ph.D.

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Q. For my next move, I am relocating to Greatville to be near my family. I've been told to wait till I move before job-hunting -- but I'm nervous about moving without a job.

A. You are absolutely right to be nervous. Moving without a job gives you the thinnest identity of all. Banks and landlords like to see a number in the block marked "Salary." And socially you're identified by that "What do you do" question.

1. If you're entry level, you may have to move without a job. But if you're senior, companies may conduct national searches to fill your position. They may not give preference to local hires.

2. Before you start packing, identify what's available by talking to people who actually live in the community. Don't rely on stereotypes ("Oh they have everything there!"). Sure, you may be moving to a big city, but the style of doing business may create unexpected barriers for someone with your background.

Mark had been teaching elementary school for fifteen years -- but the school system wouldn't hire anyone past entry level. Sally had been an award-winning salesperson -- but employers devalued her experience because "we don't sell that way here."

3. Before the movers finish unpacking, begin to network aggressively.

Daphne moved to a medium-sized town in the southeast to be near an aging parent. She volunteered for the Chamber of Commerce, the local symphony, the museum and more. Her contacts paid off: she landed a management position within two months.

And while she moved without a job, she was soon a newcomer with a job and a wonderful network of resources.

Cathy Goodwin wrote *Making the Big Move: How to transform relocation into a creative life transition*. <http://www.movinglady.com/book.html>

Moving Company Guide

By Briana Liebmann

Your decision in finding the right moving company should be made at least 4–8 weeks in advance. This will leave you plenty of time to book the moving company and prepare for any unexpected obstacles which might arise. In general, moving companies are usually more busy at the end of the month, as well as Fridays and weekends. As a result, they may charge extra for these days. When you know which company you will be moving with, call and ask them when their less busy days are. The more flexible you are, the less the cost will be. Also, let the movers know what you are expecting and ask plenty of questions. To help you, here are some thoughts you might want to keep in mind before contacting a moving company in order to get the best and most accurate quotes: * What are your preferred moving days? * How far is the move? * Is it local, long–distance, or international? * How much assistance will you need with packing? * Will the moving company be expected to pack everything or will that be left up to you? * Let the Moving company know if they are moving fragile or valuable items. * How much stuff does the moving company have to transport? * How much insurance will be needed? A good way to find the best moving company is by word–of–mouth and recommendation from others. Also, many reputable companies are available online. All of their information is available on their website. Remember, don't be afraid to ask if you have questions. With this advice, your move should be enjoyable and much less stressful.

Briana is an original content writer for <http://www.youseekit.com> which features original articles on a variety of topics.

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