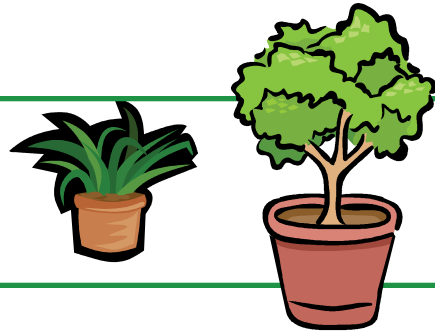


A Guide to

MOVING WITH HOUSE PLANTS



Sometimes one of the most difficult decisions to make when you are moving is: What to do with your live house plants?

Among your options might be:

- Giving them to friends as remembrances
- Donating them to a local hospital, nursing home, or library
- Offering them at a garage sale

However, if your plants have become too much a part of your family to leave behind, you will find this booklet a valuable guide to preparing them for the journey.

Pre-Planning is Key

As with the rest of your household goods, moving houseplants to a new home involves pre-planning. Whether you have only a few houseplants or dozens, decisions must be made.

- Whether to move them yourself or rely on the moving company
- Whether to take every plant, only favorites, or just cuttings for starting new plants
- When to arrange for any necessary state inspections
- When and how to start preparing plants for the move

Finally, you must realize that it is possible that not all houseplants will withstand a move in spite of every precaution. Delicate and water-loving plants (such as coleus and Boston fern) might not survive relocation. There is no one to blame -- it's simply the nature of the plant.

You should be aware of the following information before you begin planning.

Modes of Transportation

Automobile

By moving your houseplants in the family car, you will have much more control over environmental conditions than if they are moved by any other method. Houseplants moved by you should suffer a minimal amount of damage.

Special Note: *Avoid carrying plants in the car trunk, which can become very hot in the summer and cold in the winter.*

Planes Companies / United Van Lines

According to federal regulations that govern moving, we can transport perishable plants on a moving van under the following conditions:

1. The shipment is transported not more than 150 miles and/or delivery is accomplished within 24 hours of loading time.
2. No storage is required.
3. No preliminary or en route servicing, watering, or other preservative method is required of the van line.

Be sure to discuss moving house plants with your Planes move counselor. She can help you select the best way to transport them to your new home. The van operator has the right to decline taking house plants to avoid delays in the transportation and delivery of any household goods shipment. United Van Lines accepts no liability should the condition of the plant deteriorate or should the plant(s) die in transit or as a result of transportation in the moving van.

Air Freight

Airlines accept house plants as air freight. Freight charges are payable in advance.

It will be your responsibility to:

- Contact the airline(s) to inquire about moving house plants
- See that the plants are carefully packaged & labeled
- Provide any necessary (phyto-sanitary) inspection certificates
- Deliver plants to the air terminal on time
- Pick the plants up at destination

Normally, plants shipped by air receive no special handling and might be subjected to temperature extremes and other uncontrollable conditions. It is advisable to think twice before using this form of transportation. If you decide to ship via air, contact local nurseries for packing suggestions.

Federal and State Regulations

You should be aware of federal and state regulations regarding the transport of house plants from one state to another. The following information applies only to individuals who are moving decorative house plants as part of their household goods.

Plant Quarantines

Federal and/or state plant quarantines restrict the movement of plants that might harbor destructive pests. Before these plants can legally be moved from a quarantined area, they must be cleared by a federal or state plant protection official.

Destructive pests now under federal or state quarantine include the gypsy moth, imported fire ant, Japanese beetle, golden or burrowing nematode, citrus canker, the Caribbean fruit fly. Among other plant pests are the brown garden snail, European corn borer, grub worm, mealy bug, scale insect, spider mite, sweet potato weevil, and whitefly.

State Regulations

Seven states require that all house plants be inspected and certified "pest free" before they are moved to these destinations. Indoor plants should be in a commercial plant mix -- not soil or sand taken from the outdoors. If your house plants are potted in outdoor soil, or if they have been placed outside for any length of time, the plants should be repotted with a commercial type of soil several weeks prior to your scheduled move dates to give the plants time to acclimate to the new soil conditions. All plants entering Hawaii and Arizona must be free of soil, sand, and earth as well as all insects and diseases. See page 5.

Some states, such as California, mandate that any plant material must be declared and inspected at the border. House plants can be declared by writing the number of plants included in your shipment on the household goods inventory. Boxes containing plants should be marked "**Load Last**" for easy access at an agricultural inspection station.

When traveling to your destination, most states permit the through transit of uncertified, healthy house plants as long as plants remain in the vehicle and are not "aired" at any stops.

Whether or not a state requires certification, please remember that much time can be saved if plants are accompanied by a state-of-origin inspection certificate, in the event of any border or random inspection. The van operator has the right to decline taking house plants to avoid delays in the transportation and delivery of any household goods shipment.

Obtaining Certification

If the state to which you are moving requires state-of-origin certification of house plants, state and/or federal pest control officials will provide inspection services, certificates, and any necessary treatment.

You must personally arrange for inspection of your house plants by an authorized state Department of Agriculture inspector.

Whether plants are moved in your car, on a moving van, or by some other means of transportation, the inspection certificate must accompany the house plants to your destination.

General Tips

Shock

Unfortunately, some house plants are susceptible to shock when moved, sometimes even from one room to another.

Temperature

By far, the most critical factor in transporting house plants is temperature. Prolonged exposure to either excessive heat or cold is detrimental to most plants, with temperatures below 35 degrees or above 95 to 100 degrees for much over one hour, is fatal to many. Properly wrapped, insulated, and cushioned plants will be able to withstand quite a variation in temperature without being adversely affected.

Water

Most houseplants can withstand up to a week or 10 days without water and suffer little harm. Over watering is one of the major causes of plant failure, since the roots of many plants rot if they are too wet. When packing, the plant's soil should be moist, especially if packing in cartons. Trash bags of suitable size can be used as carton liners. Remember, newsprint used as a cushioning material absorbs moisture and loses its resiliency when wet or damp, whereas bubble wrap and plastic foam do not.

Darkness / Light

When other conditions are favorable, house plants can withstand darkness for up to a week without adverse effects. But plants left in darkness too long "etiolate" -- start to sprout abnormal, weak growth that is more susceptible to disease.

When first exposing plants to light after a lengthy period of darkness, avoid possible wilting and sun scald. Keep the plants away from direct exposure to the sun until they can be placed in locations comparable to those in which they previously thrived.

Cuttings

For convenience and to save space, you might prefer to take cuttings of your favorite house plants if they can be propagated in this way. Most cuttings will survive several days if kept in a plastic bag containing damp vermiculite, peat moss, or perlite, or even if wrapped in a wet paper towel.

A Preparation Check List

Three to Four Weeks before Moving

- Arrange for official inspection and certification of your house plants if this is a requirement of your destination state.
- If no certification is required, inspect the plants yourself and treat for any plant pests that you might have discovered.
- Decide whether you want to transfer plants from clay to plastic pots. Clay pots are a little more vulnerable to damage than plastic ones, but with careful packing, breakage can be avoided.
- Compact plants are easier to handle than spreading ones; a little pruning might be in order. However, excessive pruning can be harmful. Don't sacrifice the plant's health for better manageability.

Two Weeks before Moving

- Keep your plants a bit on the dry side until shortly before moving. Remember, plants in plastic pots do not need watering as often as those in clay pots. Excess water evaporates through clay pots, but not through plastic ones.
- Start collecting packing materials: wood flats, newspapers, plastic trash bags, lightweight cardboard, and strong corrugated cardboard cartons (wax lined if available), as well as funnel-shaped "sleeves" which can be made from lightweight cardboard or obtained from a florist.

The Day before Moving

- Water plants well and let excess water drain away. Note: this does not apply to cacti and other plants whose natural habitat is dry. These plants should be packed carefully to allow the free passage of air.
- Assemble plants and packing materials in a convenient area.
- Wrap each pot in aluminum foil or polyethylene film so moisture will not seep through and weaken cushioning materials or cartons.
- Large or tall plants are more easily handled if the branches are bound loosely against the main stem in the direction of growth with a soft band that will not cause injury to the plant.
- Make funnel-shaped "sleeves" from lightweight cardboard or obtain them from a florist. Slip each potted plant into one from the top so foliage will be protected.

- ❑ If waxed cartons are not available, line boxes with large-size trash bags. The plastic lining restrains moisture while keeping the cardboard carton dry.
- ❑ If at all possible, leave the actual packing until moving (loading) day.

On Moving (Loading) Day

- ❑ Carefully pack plants into prepared cartons, cushioning them with crushed newspaper or bubble wrap so they won't shift. Try to keep plants of similar size together and use cartons that are one inch or more higher than the tallest plants.
- ❑ Hanging plants should be placed at one end or in the center of a long horizontal box or tray filled with suitable cushioning materials.
- ❑ Place terrariums in cartons of suitable size and wedge them in place with cushioning materials.
- ❑ If you are moving the plants yourself, it is unnecessary to close the cartons unless they will be stacked on top of one another in the car. When traveling, park the car in the shade if the weather is hot, and in the sun if it is cold.

At Destination

- ❑ Be sure to unpack your plants promptly, carefully, and check their condition.
- ❑ Place plants in locations similar to the ones they occupied in your former home. Water as normal and try to leave them in one place. Moving them from room to room could put them at risk for further shock.

Certification

All states do not require certification, except the following:

Certification of All House Plants Required

Alabama
 Delaware
 Florida
 Maine
 Tennessee
 Utah
 Washington

All Plants Subject to Inspection upon Arrival at the State Border / Point of Entry

Arizona
 California
 Florida
 Hawaii
 Iowa
 Texas
 Virginia

For additional information regarding Gypsy Moth infestation:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/gypsy_moth/index.shtml

Request a copy of the brochure "Don't Move Gypsy Moth" from your Planes Move Counselor.