

Moving Plants

Important to check the following:

If you are traveling by air, check with the airlines about any guidelines or regulations for transporting plants to your new destination.

Check with your moving company about policies on moving plants; realize that many movers will not move plants unless the move is local or delivery is scheduled within 24 hours after the pick up of your items.

Three weeks before you move

The plants are to be pruned for packing. It's a good idea to know if your plants require special attention. If you do not know, you may want to purchase a book on your specific plant or alternatively you can consult a florist.

One week before your move

Kill any pests that are on the plant: you can do this by placing your plants in a black plastic bag, along with a bug/pest 'strip', conventional flea collar or bug powder. Close the bag and place in a cool area overnight, this will kill any pests on the plant or in the soil.

One day before the move

On the night before your move, water your plants normally. Don't over water, even if you expect warm temperatures. Over watered plants can grow fungus during transit in warmer weather, or they can freeze in winter weather.

If you are going to pack your plants into a box, prepare the box now. Make sure the box has an adequate amount of holes to allow for your plants to breathe. It is important that the plants have enough space so that the branches or stems do not break while in transit.

Take cuttings the day before your move, wrapping them in wet peat moss or newspaper and then put them inside unsealed zip-lock bags (plants need air to breathe). Place the bags in a box and secure them upright with light packing material so that the wetness is contained. The cuttings should survive several days' travel and should be ready to take root in your new home.

On the day of the move

Leave your plants as one of the last things to pack when you move. This will help prevent them from being confined for an extended amount of time; it will also insure that they'll be one of the first things unpacked at your new place.

Plants will suffer from long exposure to extreme heat or cold and lack of fresh air. Moving van temperatures can be freezing in the winter and unbearably hot in the summer. Moving your plants yourself in your car may be the best solution; you should try to avoid putting plants in the trunk as it lacks air and could expose your plants to extreme temperatures. If you have no other choice, avoid leaving them in the truck for an extended amount of time.

Parking the car

Make sure to park your car in a shaded area in the summer and a sunny spot in the winter.

At your new residence

Unpacking your plants is the first thing you must do after arriving at your new residence. Take your time unpacking them to help insure that you don't break any stems or branches. Let them accustom to the light gradually: don't expose to the sunlight immediately.

Tips & Warnings

- If you're moving out of state, be aware that some states prohibit moving plants across state lines; check with your local florist or nursery or with the Department of Agriculture about any restrictions for your state.
- For a do-it-yourself move, avoid extreme temperature changes by transporting plants in your car instead of placing them in a van or trailer.
- Moving your plants may not be worth the hassle, so consider donating your plants to a local nursing home or giving them away to friends before you move.