



Safely Move Your Houseplants
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Houseplants can be moved safely, but it takes work and advanced planning. Most professional movers will not move plants because of extremes in temperatures inside the van and the fragile nature of plants.

Here is a time schedule that may fit your situation:

Three weeks. Ask your household mover for special packing materials to move your own plants. Most van lines will be glad to help you pack them. Some agents have illustrated brochures with tips and suggestions on how to best move a plant. Call the Department of Agriculture to check on regulations for moving plants into your new state of residence. Repot your plants into unbreakable plastic pots if they are growing in breakable ones.

Two weeks. Plants should be pruned, if necessary, to avoid excessive breakage and facilitate packing and moving. Even large plants can be cut back quite a lot without ruining their shape.

One week. Check plants for any insect pests. Treat as necessary or consider disposing of them if the problem is too severe.

Moving day. Plants should be packed the night before and clearly labeled. Lay plants down in conventional packing boxes. Use moist paper for packing material. Make sure the pots are packed tight. Water the plants the day before you move, if it's warm weather, but keep them on the dry side in cold weather. As a final event, punch air holes in the sides of the boxes.

On the road. Put the plant boxes on top of other boxes to avoid crushing. Don't put them in the trunk. Be careful where you park your car to take advantage of shade in the summer and sunshine in the winter. When you arrive, unpack your plants immediately. Remove them from the boxes and position them in a bright, but not full sunlight, location.

If you cannot move them all, consider using some as gifts and offer the rest in local yard sales. Another option is to take cuttings of your favorite plants. Check to see if the plants you have are commonly propagated by cuttings. Wrap the cuttings in moist paper towels and pack in a plastic bag. More than likely they will survive several days of travel and still root when you arrive.