

TIPS FOR SAFEGUARDING VALUABLES DURING MOVES

The Defense Department offers the following tips for protecting valuable items during household moves:

Do not ship high-value items such as watches, jewelry, cash, stocks, bonds, coin and stamp collections, antiques, bills, deeds, precious metals, or irreplaceable sentimental items such as photo albums. Carry them with you.

Prior to your move, obtain professional appraisals for expensive, valuable items such as artwork, collectibles, and heirlooms, and buy supplemental insurance for them during the move.

Videotape or take close-up photos of all your belongings.

Record serial numbers of electronic equipment.

Confirm the mover's documentation of furniture condition on their inventory record sheets, and challenge the movers until you agree on accuracy.

Make sure all items are listed on the inventory sheets.

Don't wax or oil wooden antiques and fine wood furniture before shipping because some products might soften the wood and make it vulnerable to imprinting from furniture pads.

Third-party servicing will likely be needed before moving such luxury items as hot tubs, large-screen TVs, and some exercise equipment.

Talk to Transportation or the moving company about pre- and post-move servicing of items such as washers, dryers, refrigerators, dishwashers, grandfather clocks, plasma TVs, and satellite dishes.