

PROTECT YOUR MOVE FROM ROGUE MOVING COMPANIES


**Get Quote from
Reputable Moving
Company –
NO BROKERS**

Written estimate from several movers

Accurate Moving Estimates Require a Proper Inspection

- Your moving estimate should be based on an actual inspection of your household goods. Reputable moving companies will send a move consultant to your home to conduct a visual survey, allowing them to provide an accurate cost estimate.
- Many movers now offer virtual surveys, where the move consultant can view your home remotely in real time.
- Be cautious of any moving company that offers to provide an estimate over the phone without seeing your belongings. This is typically a red flag, as they may not be acting in your best interest.

Make sure the mover has insurance and is licensed by the proper authority

- For moves between states, a U.S. DOT number is issued by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA). You can verify a mover's license at:
 <https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/protect-your-move/search-mover>
- For moves within Virginia, an Intrastate Authority Number is issued by the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles.
Any move within Virginia that is over 30 miles door-to-door is considered an intrastate move.
- If a moving company does not have the proper authority, they likely do not have valid insurance to cover your move — putting your belongings at risk.

Protect Your Move

- Make sure the moving company has Operating Authority to perform your move.
- Insurance Requirements... ask for a Certificate of Insurance issued by their Insurer.
- Do they perform background checks on their employees?
- Registration and License Plate Requirements, must be registered as “for-hire”.



Red Flags

1. Too-Good-to-Be-True Pricing

- Beware of **lowball estimates** that seem significantly cheaper than others.
- Scammers lure you in with an unbelievable price—only to **raise the cost later**.

2. No Written Estimate or Contract

- Legitimate movers provide **detailed, written estimates** (binding or non-binding).
- If they refuse to give a contract or rush you to sign without reading—**walk away!**

3. Large Upfront Deposits

- Most reputable movers require **payment at delivery, not upfront**.
- If they ask for a **huge deposit or cash payment**, it's a red flag.

Tips to Avoid Brokers/Rogue Movers

- Google the name of the company and look for reviews that are not on their website
- Check out their rating with the Better Business Bureau
- Look up their address on Google Earth. If you do not see a warehouse and trucks but rather a home or an apartment complex, this is a warning sign.
- Check <https://www.movingscam.com/>
- By federal law, movers are required to give you a booklet called “[Your Rights and Responsibilities When You Move](#)” while in the planning stages of your move (not after you’re all packed up). If you weren’t offered one, choose another mover.