

Planning an interstate or cross-country move from Burbank requires more preparation than a local [Burbank movers](#) relocation. Your belongings may travel hundreds or thousands of miles, and the move can involve detailed estimates, inventories, pickup scheduling, delivery windows, federal regulations, and valuation coverage.

Experienced **long distance movers Burbank** can help simplify the process by providing transportation, packing options, inventory management, storage, and delivery coordination. The key is choosing a company that provides clear documentation, explains pricing, verifies its credentials, and communicates throughout the move.



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What Is an Interstate Move?

An interstate move occurs when household goods are transported across state lines. Unlike local moving, interstate household-goods transportation is regulated by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

All interstate household-goods movers and brokers must be registered with the FMCSA, hold a U.S. Department of Transportation number, and maintain appropriate insurance. Consumers can use FMCSA resources to check registration status, insurance information, and complaint history.

[fmcsa.dot](<https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/protect-your-move/tips-for-success>)

Before hiring a company, ask whether it is a carrier or a broker. A carrier physically transports your household goods, while a broker arranges transportation with another carrier. You should understand who will pick up, transport, and deliver your shipment.

Start Planning Early

Long-distance relocations should be planned as early as possible. Begin by setting a moving date and creating a timeline for sorting belongings, requesting estimates, selecting a mover, packing, changing your address, transferring utilities, arranging travel, and preparing your new home.

Create a complete inventory of your belongings. Include furniture, appliances, boxes, electronics, fragile items, artwork, outdoor equipment, specialty items, and anything that requires additional protection. This information helps movers prepare accurate written estimates.

Decluttering is an important early step. Donate, [Burbank moving company](#) sell, recycle, or dispose of items you no longer need. Reducing the size of your shipment may lower transportation costs and make packing more

manageable.



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Compare Written Estimates

Request written estimates from multiple long-distance moving companies. The FMCSA states that an interstate moving estimate should clearly describe all charges for transportation, accessorial services, and advance charges. Verbal estimates should not be accepted.

[fmcsa.dot](https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/faq?keyword&term_node_tid_depth=23066&page=1)

Ask whether the estimate is binding, non-binding, or binding-not-to-exceed. A binding estimate generally sets the cost for the listed services and inventory. A non-binding estimate is an approximation and may change based on shipment weight, added services, access conditions, or other factors.

Compare estimates using the same shipment inventory and requested services. A lower price may not be the best choice if the estimate excludes packing, storage, delivery, furniture handling, long carries, or other services that you will need.

Understand Cost Factors

Long-distance moving costs can depend on shipment weight or volume, travel distance, pickup and delivery locations, packing needs, special items, storage, access conditions, and delivery timing.

Ask the mover to explain whether the estimate includes packing supplies, furniture padding, disassembly, reassembly, stairs, elevators, long carries, shuttle service, storage, fuel, and delivery charges. Understanding these details before booking can help prevent unexpected expenses.

Also ask about deposits, payment schedules, cancellation terms, rescheduling fees, and accepted payment methods. A reliable company should provide these terms in writing and answer questions clearly.

Know Your Moving Documents

Interstate moves involve several important documents. Keep your estimate, order for service, inventory, bill of lading, valuation coverage forms, receipts, and all written communication in one secure folder.

The bill of lading is a transportation contract. Review it before signing and confirm that it includes the correct pickup address, delivery location, inventory, valuation selection, services, and charges.

Ask the mover for information about consumer rights, dispute settlement procedures, delivery expectations, and claims. Understanding these documents before pickup can help you make more informed decisions during the relocation.

Packing for a Cross-Country Move

You may choose to pack yourself or hire professional packing services. Professional packing can be useful for fragile belongings, artwork, mirrors, electronics, kitchens, antiques, and large furniture.

If you pack on your own, use durable boxes, strong tape, cushioning materials, and clear labels. Mark every box with the destination room and a description of the contents. Keep an inventory of valuable items and take photographs before loading.

Ask the mover for a list of items that cannot travel on the moving truck. Flammable liquids, propane tanks, aerosols, certain chemicals, perishable food, and other hazardous materials may be restricted.

Plan for Pickup and Delivery

Long-distance deliveries may not occur on the same day as pickup. Delivery schedules can depend on distance, route planning, weather, truck availability, regulations, shipment size, and other operational factors.

Ask for the expected pickup date, delivery window, update process, and contact information for questions during transit. Make sure an authorized person will be available at the destination to receive the shipment.

Before delivery, reserve elevators if necessary, arrange parking, confirm access to the property, and clear pathways. These steps can help unloading happen more safely and efficiently.

Valuation Coverage and Claims

Ask about valuation coverage before the move begins. Basic carrier responsibility may offer limited protection, so make sure you understand available options, exclusions, coverage limits, deadlines, and claims procedures.

You may also wish to contact your homeowners or renters insurance provider to ask whether your policy offers moving-related coverage. If you own high-value items, consider additional protection before your belongings are loaded.

At delivery, inspect boxes and furniture as they are unloaded. Note visible damage or missing items on the paperwork before signing. Keep copies of all documents and follow the company's written claims process if a problem occurs.

Final Thoughts

Long-distance movers in Burbank can simplify an interstate or cross-country relocation by providing experienced crews, careful planning, transportation, packing options, and delivery coordination.

To choose the right company, compare written estimates, verify FMCSA registration, understand all costs, review moving documents, and select a provider that offers clear communication. With preparation and trusted professional support, your long-distance move can be safer, more organized, and easier to manage.