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Four Things to Consider when Selecting a Moving Company

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Are you about to welcome a new tenant to your building? Help them ease the transition from their old space to yours with these tips.

Corporations invest millions in high-value items, such as computers, capital equipment, art, and systems furniture. They also have a significant investment in financial records and other corporate documents.

Safeguarding those investments during relocation and storage requires professionals with the knowledge, skills and tools to carefully handle those items. The relocation industry provides specialized resources that minimize a company's risk and simplify the process.

Relocation experts recommend four top criteria to consider when selecting a moving company.

1. Expertise with Corporate Relocation Needs:

Special commodities and systems in corporations require movers who are experienced in complex moves. Removal and installation of systems furniture and the relocation of capital equipment and sophisticated computer networks or other high-value equipment requires specialized care and handling by competent movers. It is also crucial to have qualified movers who understand the sensitive nature of handling confidential records and documents, both during the move and for safe storage.

Industry professionals strive to become consulting partners with the companies being moved. They provide expertise and advice to plan a strategic move that considers the scope of work and logistics specific to the client. This guidance ultimately results in a quality and cost-effective move.

2. Nearby Commercial Warehousing Facility:

A qualified moving company can provide a secure warehouse facility for its clients' short-term and long-term storage needs. It is critical that the facility be equipped with operational fire protection systems, be climate-controlled and use a software management system for inventory control.

Office equipment, financial and other records, etc., may require storage space. It is expensive and time-consuming to find, rent and manage warehouse space for these items. Using a third party frees the institution's human resources to work on other responsibilities.

When companies use an outside vendor to manage inventory in a secure warehouse facility, they pay for space only when they need to use it, which moves the cost from a fixed expense to a variable expense. Cost-saving

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initiatives like this are integral to the services a qualified moving company provides.

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3. Branches or Strong Network across the Country:

When companies recruit executives and other employees from across the country, ease of relocation can be a consideration for the individual and his or her family. A company that offers a seamless and effortless move as part of the recruitment package may have an edge in successful recruiting.

To do this, companies need a moving company with an extensive nationwide network within its own company or with other qualified subcontractors that assist outside the company's service area(s).

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4. Financial Stability, Size and Service Infrastructure:

Entrusting valuable items to a moving company involves a certain level of risk. Items lost or damaged during the move can result in claims against the moving company. Working with a company that is proven to be financially strong reduces the risk to the client.

Financial strength also enables a moving company to invest in specific equipment – dollies, Tyga™ boxes, panel carts, lift gate trailers and climate-controlled storage – to meet the needs of special relocation projects. Financially sound vendors with a global network, capable of implementing new technological advances to further enhance the client-supplier relationship, are best suited to meeting the client's needs.

It's also important to evaluate the size and service structure of the moving company. Depending on the company's needs, a one-source solution for all transportation, relocation, warehousing and logistics needs may be important.

Smooth Move

Companies need to take time during procurement to fully evaluate potential vendors. That time investment will add protection in the long run to valued assets. The four points outlined here provide a solid evaluation model.

1. Be certain the company has experience and expertise in all aspects related to corporate relocation.
2. Look for commercial warehousing facilities near the office.
3. It is often important that a moving company has an expansive network equipped to handle cross-country moves as easily and adequately as cross-town moves.
4. Financial stability reduces risk to the client during the move and storage.

During the procurement process, take time to assess the communication skills, manpower and resources of the moving company. The best moving company will be able to meet all the needs of the company, and to exceed them.

Bob Papuga is the regional vice president of commercial services for Suddath Relocation Systems. Suddath Relocation Systems, a subsidiary of The Suddath Companies, provides corporate relocation, household goods transportation, facility moving, warehousing and logistics services to businesses and consumers worldwide. For more information, visit www.suddathrelocation.com.

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