

How to Avoid Rogue Moving Companies



BROOKS
MOVING & HAULING



Forward Van Lines
Moving & Storage

Moving can be an exciting yet stressful time, but it shouldn't be a nightmare. Unfortunately, thousands of Americans fall victim to rogue moving companies each year, resulting in financial losses, damaged belongings, and emotional distress. In 2022 alone, the **Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA)** received over 7,000 complaints about moving companies, with many of these related to fraudulent practices.

The Cost of Falling for a Moving Scam

The financial impact of rogue movers can be devastating. Victims often find themselves paying two to three times the initial estimate, with some losing thousands of dollars and even their cherished possessions. For example, one single mother relocating from Wisconsin to Texas ended up paying over \$3,000 more than expected and didn't receive her belongings for two months.

How to Spot and Avoid Rogue Movers

To protect yourself from these scams, follow these essential tips:

- 1. RESEARCH THOROUGHLY:** Don't just rely on flashy websites or online ads. Check the company's reputation on the Better Business Bureau (BBB) and read customer reviews on multiple platforms.
- 2. VERIFY CREDENTIALS:** Check the USDOT number: All legitimate interstate moving companies must have a USDOT number issued by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA). You can use the FMCSA's Mover Registration Search Tool to verify if the company is properly registered and insured.

3. **LOOK FOR MC NUMBER:** If the company performs interstate moves, they should have a federal motor carrier (MC) number in addition to their USDOT number.
4. **ASK FOR PROOF OF INSURANCE:** Legitimate moving companies should have liability, cargo, auto, and workers' compensation insurance. Request to see their Certificate of Insurance (COI)
5. **GET MULTIPLE ESTIMATES:** Be wary of unusually low bids or one-price-fits-all quotes. Reputable movers will provide detailed estimates based on factors like the weight of your goods and the distance of your move.
6. **INSIST ON AN IN-HOME INSPECTION:** Legitimate movers will want to see your belongings in person to provide an accurate estimate.
7. **BE CAUTIOUS OF LARGE DEPOSITS:** Reputable moving companies typically don't require large upfront payments or deposits to secure your moving date.
8. **GET EVERYTHING IN WRITING:** Ensure you have a detailed, written contract before allowing movers to touch your belongings.
9. **LOOK FOR INDUSTRY CERTIFICATIONS:** Consider using movers certified as "ProMovers" by the American Moving and Storage Association. These companies are screened to meet ethical and professional standards.
10. **BE ON ALERT IF A MOVING COMPANY:**
 - Refuses to provide a written estimate
 - Uses a rented truck instead of a company-owned and marked vehicle
 - Doesn't offer full-value protection insurance
 - Has no physical address or office
 - Changes its name frequently

Protecting Yourself Further

If you're moving across state lines, familiarize yourself with the **"Your Rights and Responsibilities When You Move"** booklet, which legitimate movers are required to provide. This resource outlines industry regulations and your consumer rights.

Remember, if a deal seems too good to be true, it probably is. Taking the time to research and choose a reputable mover can save you from the stress, financial loss, and heartache that comes with falling victim to a moving scam.

By following these guidelines and trusting your instincts, you can ensure your move is handled by professionals who will treat your belongings with care and respect. Happy moving!



Download this
guide [here](#).