

# Consumer Corner

## Moving With The Internet Can Be A Better Move

(NAPS)—According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the average American moves 12 times in a lifetime, usually during the months of June, August or September.

Thanks to the power of the Internet, the hassles of house hunting are quickly becoming a thing of the past. Here are some tips on how the Internet can make your next move a better move:

- Use the Internet to view photos, take virtual tours and browse through extensive lists of homes, apartments, furnished rentals or senior housing options in all 50 states.

- Find out about the neighborhood you are moving into. Important features many people research online include local government, taxes, schools, the crime rate, recreational facilities and employment opportunities.

- You can connect and disconnect utilities such as electricity, telephone, water, gas, and cable. Some services will even contact other vendors and service providers, including voter and vehicle registration, and newspaper and magazine subscriptions, to guarantee your mail follows you wherever you go, thus saving you valuable time and money.

- You can educate yourself on rates and apply for financing online. Use a calculator to figure out what kind of payments you can comfortably afford to make. Don't forget to factor in taxes.

- Keep a record of all your moving steps and costs. Some moving costs may be tax deductible.



**Relocation, real estate and home-related information can easily be found at one web site.**

- Research moving companies and rental vans. Order moving boxes a few months in advance so you can start packing. Start by packing small decorative and highly breakable items. If necessary find out about storage units.

- Shop for home-related needs from books to power tools to couches and contractors. Finding out about local contractors can help you get a head start on getting your new home in shape before you move in.

Web sites such as move.com offer all these services in one location through links with a wide variety of move-related partners, such as Coldwell Banker, ERA, Century 21, Rent Net for apartment and ImproveNet for home improvements contractors. Most major portals, like Alta Vista and About.com, also have moving-related resources.

For more information, visit [www.move.com](http://www.move.com)