



The Ultimate Moving Budget Guide

Save More, Stress Less



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Introduction

Welcome to Your Moving Journey with Atlas Van Lines Canada!

Moving can be exciting, but it's also full of decisions. One of the most important is budgeting for your long-distance move.

Why Budgeting is Key to a Stress-Free Move

A well-planned budget can make the difference between a smooth, enjoyable move and unexpected financial stress. From packing supplies to transport, there are many factors to consider, and we're here to help you break it all down.

How to Use This Guide for a Seamless Experience

This guide is designed to provide practical tips, expert advice, and tools to help you create a budget that fits your needs. Follow along, and by the end, you'll feel confident and prepared for every aspect of your long-distance move!



Chapter 1:



Understanding the True Cost of Moving

When it comes to long-distance moving, understanding the full scope of costs is essential for proper planning. Whether you're moving across provinces or to a new country, knowing what to expect will help ensure you're prepared financially and avoid any surprises along the way.

Overview of Typical Moving Expenses

Moving involves more than just packing your belongings and hitting the road. Common expenses you should account for include transportation fees, packing supplies, and, in some cases, storage costs. Consider the services you need from your moving team, such as special handling for fragile or oversized items and specific delivery timelines.

Distance and Weight: How These Impact Costs

Two key factors that affect the cost of your move are the distance you're travelling and the weight of your belongings. The further your destination, the higher the transportation costs will be. Likewise, the heavier your load, the more you can expect to pay. Professional movers calculate rates based on these variables, so if you're moving a fully furnished home across the country, be prepared for a larger bill than if you're making a smaller, local move.

Full-Service vs. DIY: What's Right for Your Budget?

Choosing between a full-service move or doing it yourself depends on your budget and how much time you can dedicate to the move. Full-service moving

includes everything from packing and loading to transportation and unpacking at your new location. While more convenient, this option tends to be pricier. A DIY approach, where you handle packing, can save money upfront but may add stress and time.

Hidden Costs You Might Overlook

In addition to the obvious costs, there are some expenses that are easy to overlook. These can include unexpected storage fees if there's a delay in your move, as well as the cost of professional cleaning for your old home.

Packing Supplies, Insurance, Permits, etc.

Packing supplies like boxes, bubble wrap, and specialty packaging materials for fragile items add up quickly. While it might be tempting to cut corners, using the right materials can prevent damage to your belongings. Consider if you need additional moving insurance beyond what's provided by your mover.



Atlas Van Lines Quoting Process

To get a detailed quote with Atlas, you have a couple of options.

- Visit our website and fill out the form with as much detail as possible.
- An Atlas Trusted Agent will contact you to schedule a home visit for an in-person quote or provide access to our virtual quoting app.
- You can use the app with the help of your representative or on your own.
- This virtual tool allows you to take a detailed visual inventory of your home, and from there, our agents will provide a personalized moving quote.
- This includes options like packing, handling special items, storage, and unpacking services.



Chapter 2:



Pre-Move Planning and Budgeting

Now that you understand the true costs associated with a long-distance move, it's time to dive into the pre-move planning stage. This chapter will guide you through creating a moving budget, saving money where possible, and understanding what coverage options you'll need to protect your belongings.



Creating a moving budget is a crucial step to ensuring you're financially prepared. Here's a simple step-by-step process:

1. List All Potential Costs: Start by listing all the costs you expect based on your move type—whether full-service or DIY. Include transportation, packing supplies, storage, and any hidden costs you've identified from Chapter 1.

2. Get Multiple Quotes: Use moving cost calculators and the

Atlas Van Lines quote tool to get a few different estimates. This will give you a better idea of how much you'll need to budget.

3. Categorize Expenses: Break down your costs into categories like essentials (moving services, packing materials, etc.), optional services (storage, professional cleaning).

4. Allocate Funds: Once you know the total estimated cost, allocate your available funds to each category. This will give you

a clear understanding of where your money is going and how much you'll need to save.

5. Track and Adjust: As your move date approaches, update your budget as you pay for certain services or purchase supplies. Keeping a close eye on your spending helps avoid surprises.

Scan QR code for a downloadable spreadsheet



Decluttering to Save Money on Your Move

One of the best ways to reduce moving costs is by moving fewer belongings. Decluttering not only lightens your load but can also save you time and stress. A lighter shipment means lower transportation costs, especially for long-distance moves where weight and space are key factors.

Tips for Selling, Donating, and Recycling

As you declutter, consider the following options:

✓ Donate

For items you no longer need but can't sell, consider donating to local charities or shelters.



✓ Sell

Organize a garage sale or list items online through platforms like Facebook Marketplace or Kijiji. Selling items can help offset some of your moving expenses.

✓ Recycle

Make sure to recycle any old electronics, appliances, or materials that can't be reused.



Understanding Moving Coverage Options

When planning a move, it's important to understand what protection is available for your belongings.

You can safeguard your items in case of damage, loss, or theft. However, not all is created equal, so it's essential to understand your options.

What's Included in Your Quote vs. What's Extra

When you receive a moving quote, it typically includes basic coverage, but there may be additional options you can purchase for extra peace of mind. Be sure to clarify with your moving company what's included in the quote and what would require an additional fee.

Basic Coverage: Often included in the standard moving quote, this coverage is usually based on the weight of your belongings. While it provides some protection, it might not fully cover the value of higher-end or fragile items.

Full Value Protection: This type of coverage ensures that if any of your belongings are lost or damaged, the moving company will repair or replace them based on their current market value. This option is typically available for an additional fee but offers more comprehensive protection.

Choosing the Right Level of Coverage for Your Needs

Not every move requires full-value protection. Consider the value of your items and the level of risk you're comfortable with. For example, opting for more comprehensive coverage may be worth the extra investment if you have many high-value or irreplaceable items.

With your budget in place, your belongings decluttered, and a good understanding of your needs, you're now well on your way to a successful, stress-free move. In the next chapter, we'll dive into tips for choosing the right mover and ensuring your move goes as smoothly as possible.



Scan the QR code to learn more about Atlas Coverage!



Chapter 3:



Choosing the Right Mover

Choosing the right moving company can make or break your long-distance move. With so many options available, knowing what to look for to avoid costly mistakes is essential. In this chapter, we'll explore how to find a trustworthy mover and why Atlas Van Lines Canada is your best choice.

How to Vet Moving Companies Like a Pro

To avoid moving scams or poor service, thoroughly vet any moving company you're considering. Look for online reviews, ask for references, and check how long they've been in business. A reputable company will be transparent and willing to provide information.

Red Flags to Watch for and Questions to Ask

Beware of companies that offer quotes without an in-person or virtual assessment. Watch out for lowball estimates, lack of credentials, or unclear payment terms. Ask questions like:

- ✔ **What's included in their service?**
- ✔ **Do they offer written estimates?**
- ✔ **Is the company insured?**

The Importance of Certification and Memberships

A company's certifications and industry memberships speak volumes about its credibility. Trustworthy movers should be members of recognized organizations like the Canadian Association of Movers (CAM), which sets industry standards for professionalism and reliability.



Atlas Van Lines Canada's Standards of Service

At Atlas Van Lines Canada, we pride ourselves on delivering top-tier service backed by decades of experience. Our team adheres to the highest industry standards, ensuring your move is handled with care, precision, and expertise.

✓ **Comparing Quotes and Finding the Best Value**

Not all moving quotes are created equal. When comparing, look beyond the bottom line to see what's included. Does the quote cover packing and transportation? Is there an option for extra services like storage or handling specialty items? The cheapest option isn't always the best when it comes to your belongings.

✓ **Breaking Down What's Included in Moving Quotes**

Atlas Van Lines provides transparent quotes that break down every aspect of the move. You'll know exactly what services you're paying for and what additional options are available to ensure your needs are met.

✓ **Why Cheaper Isn't Always Better: Quality Matters**

While it might be tempting to choose the cheapest mover, cutting corners often leads to

unexpected costs or damaged belongings. With Atlas, you're investing in a company that guarantees high-quality service, so you can trust that your items are in good hands.

✓ **Special Considerations for Long-Distance Moves**

Long-distance moves require more coordination and planning than local moves. From the timing to the logistics of transporting items across provinces, it's important to choose a mover with experience in this area.

✓ **How Atlas Van Lines' Nationwide Network Simplifies the Process**

With Atlas Van Lines' extensive nationwide network, we have the resources to handle any long-distance move seamlessly. Our network allows us to provide reliable, consistent service no matter where you're moving in Canada, giving you peace of mind.

✓ **The Role of Guaranteed Delivery Dates and Containerization**

Atlas Van Lines offers guaranteed delivery dates and containerization, ensuring your belongings arrive safely and on time. This commitment to punctuality and protection sets us apart from other movers and is a key reason to trust us with your long-distance move.

Choosing the right mover is critical, and with Atlas Van Lines Canada, you're guaranteed a smooth, stress-free experience backed by our proven standards of service and expertise.



Chapter 4:



Preparing for Moving Day

The big day is approaching, and with the right preparation, you can make your move go smoothly while keeping costs in check. From packing smart to ensuring the safety of special items and pets, this chapter will guide you through everything you need to know to prepare for a successful moving day.

How to Pack Smart and Save Money

Packing efficiently is one of the best ways to save money on your move. The less space your belongings take up, the less you'll pay for transportation. Plan your packing carefully to avoid last-minute stress and unexpected expenses.

Packing Strategies for Efficiency and Cost Savings

- ✓ **Start Early:** Give yourself plenty of time to pack so you can do it methodically. Rushed packing often leads to poorly packed boxes and more damage.
- ✓ **Pack by Room:** Focus on one room at a time, which will make unpacking easier.
- ✓ **Maximize Space:** Use all available space in boxes by filling gaps with soft items like towels or clothing to reduce the number of boxes you'll need.
- ✓ **Disassemble Furniture:** When possible, disassemble large furniture pieces to save on space.

Tips for Labeling and Organizing Your Boxes

Proper labeling makes a world of difference on moving day. Label each box with its contents and destination room, and consider using colour-coded labels for quick identification. Keep a master list of what's in each box to stay organized, especially for high-value items.

- ✓ **Pack Essentials:** Have a bag ready with your pet's food, water, medication, and favourite toys to keep them comfortable during the move.



Planning for Pets: Stress-Free Moving with Furry Friends

Pets can find moving day stressful, so planning ahead can make the experience smoother for them and you.

Create a Safe Space: On moving day, keep pets in a quiet, secure room to avoid confusion or the risk of them getting lost during the chaos.

Introduction to Pet Relocation Services

For long-distance moves, especially cross-country relocations, you might want to consider pet relocation services like the ones Atlas Van Lines offers in partnership with **Paws en Route**. These services handle the logistics of moving pets safely and comfortably so you can focus on the rest of the move.



Scan QR code to learn more!



Specialty Items

Preparing Special Items: Pianos, Antiques, and Artwork

Specialty items like pianos, antiques, and artwork require extra care when moving. These high-value or delicate items should be packed and handled differently to ensure they arrive at your new home in perfect condition.

Pianos: Hire professionals to move pianos to avoid damage to the instrument or injury to yourself.

Antiques and Artwork: Wrap these items in bubble wrap and place them in padded crates or boxes. Consider climate-controlled storage if your move is over long distances.

In the next chapter, we'll discuss what to expect on moving day and how to ensure everything goes according to plan.

How to Ensure Safe Transport for Unique or Fragile Items

To ensure your fragile items are safe, consider custom crating options for extra protection. Items like glass, ceramics, and electronics should be cushioned with foam or padding. Always label these boxes as “fragile” and inform your movers so they handle them with care.

Getting the Right Coverage

Finally, ensure you have the proper coverage for your move, especially for high-value or irreplaceable items. Atlas Van Lines offers full value protection, which covers the repair, replacement, or reimbursement of lost or damaged items.

Make sure to discuss your coverage options with your moving coordinator ahead of time to avoid any surprises.

Chapter 5:



Post-Move Expenses to Plan For

Congratulations! You've made it through moving day, but the financial planning isn't over yet. Setting up your new home can come with its own set of expenses. In this chapter, we'll cover what costs to expect after the move and how to plan for them to stay on budget.

Setting Up Your New Home: What You Might Need to Buy

Once you've settled into your new home, there are likely going to be things you'll need to purchase. From new furniture to basic household essentials, post-move shopping can add up quickly. Start by making a list of items you may need right away versus what can be purchased later, based on your immediate needs and budget.

Budgeting for Furniture, Appliances, and Decor

New furniture, appliances, and decor are some of the biggest expenses after a move. Here's how to budget effectively:

- ✓ **Prioritize Essentials:** Focus on what you absolutely need first, like a bed, sofa, and kitchen appliances. Save non-essential decor and upgrades for later.
- ✓ **Consider Second-Hand Options:** Websites like Kijiji, Facebook Marketplace, or local thrift stores are great for finding affordable, gently used furniture and appliances.
- ✓ **Shop Smart:** Take advantage of sales, especially around holidays, or consider buying floor models or refurbished items to save money.

Utility Setup and Connection Fees

One of the first things you'll need to do after moving is set up utilities like electricity, water, and gas. Many service providers charge a connection fee, so be sure to include these costs in your budget. These fees can vary depending on the provider and your location, so it's a good idea to contact your utility companies in advance to understand what you'll be charged.

Transfer or Set Up Services Like Electricity, Water, and Internet

Setting up utilities and services is usually straightforward, but it's important to get it done early to avoid gaps in service. Here's what to keep in mind:

- ✓ **Electricity and Water:** Contact your local service providers to schedule the transfer of services to your new address. If you're moving to a new area, you may need to set up accounts with different providers.
- ✓ **Internet and Cable:** It's a good idea to schedule installation for internet or cable service as soon as possible. Some companies offer online setup options, while others may require a technician to visit your home.
- ✓ **Update Your Address:** Don't forget to update your mailing address with all your utility providers to avoid any service interruptions or missed bills.

Understanding Storage Options if Needed

Depending on the timing of your move or the size of your new home, you may need to consider storage options. Whether you're waiting for renovations to be completed or you simply don't have enough room for all your belongings, having a plan for storage can save you a lot of hassle. Your Atlas moving specialist can help you plan for this using our containers and certified storage facilities.

More details on storage options

When and Why to Consider Temporary Storage

Temporary storage can be a lifesaver in a few scenarios:

Delayed Move-In: If your new home isn't ready when you arrive, temporary storage can hold your belongings until it's time to move them in.

Downsizing: If you've moved to a smaller home and don't have space for everything, short-term storage gives you time to decide what to keep.

Seasonal Items: If you have bulky seasonal items like winter gear or holiday decorations, a storage unit can free up space in your new home. Depending on the provider and your location, so it's a good idea to contact your utility companies in advance to understand what you'll be charged.

Atlas Van Lines Storage Solutions for Short-Term and Long-Term Needs

Atlas Van Lines offers flexible storage solutions to fit your needs, whether short-term or long-term. We provide secure storage facilities across Canada, ensuring your belongings are safe until you're ready for them. Whether you need a temporary spot during your move or a more extended solution for storing extra items, we've got you covered.

Planning for post-move expenses can help ease the transition into your new home and prevent financial surprises. By budgeting for essentials like furniture, utilities, and storage, you'll set yourself up for success in this new chapter.



Chapter 6:



Tools and Resources to Make Your Move Easier

A successful move requires more than just packing and transportation. With the right tools and resources, you can stay organized, save money, and make your entire moving experience smoother. In this final chapter, we'll provide helpful tools, recommended resources, and ways to stay connected with Atlas Van Lines Canada so you're always prepared.



Top Moving Apps for Organization and Planning

There are several moving apps available that can simplify the logistics of your move. Here are some of the best:



Sortly

Helps you organize your belongings and track what's in each box with photos and labels.



MoveAdvisor

Assists with creating a moving checklist, inventory, and planning timeline.



TaskRabbit

An excellent resource for finding help with packing, cleaning, and other move-related tasks.



Final Tips for a Stress-Free Move

To ensure a smooth move, here are some final tips:

Start Planning Early: The earlier you begin, the easier it will be to stay organized and avoid last-minute stress.

Stay Flexible: Be prepared for changes or delays, and have a backup plan just in case.

Take Care of Yourself: Moving can be exhausting—remember to take breaks and rest when needed.

Invitation to Reach Out for a Quote or Consultation

We invite you to contact us for a FREE quote or consultation. Our moving experts are ready to help you customize your moving plan to fit your specific needs and budget. Visit our website or call us today to get started on your smooth, hassle-free move.

Let's Start Your Stress-Free Move!

Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

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