

July 22, 2014

This is Erin Dunn of the Fortuna Chamber of Commerce with a Community Comment.

I recently had to move. I'm a renter and the house I was living in was put on the market.

I wanted to share a few of the life lessons I re-learned from this experience. Moving was filled with countless metaphors for life

My first lesson? The more simply you live, the simpler it is to live. I accumulated quite a bit of stuff over the years—things I just had to have—I go on decorating kicks and then change direction after a year or so (maybe this sounds familiar). Oddly enough, I began an exercise a few months before I found out I had to move that helped me get my head in the right place. I started playing what do I have to have...if I could only have two coffee mugs, what two coffee mugs would I keep? What one art piece? How many towels did I really need? It helped me realize that if I hadn't used something in 2 years it needed to be packed up and sent to Miranda's.

Second-- Be prepared for hidden expenses. Sometimes my budgeting process is a little too conservative. I have all best intentions of scrimping. In addition to normal expenses like movers, moving materials, and deposits, I didn't factor in the cost of eating out for a week. That week between packing at the old place and unpacking at the new place is definitely a land of food limbo. My lesson—be prepared for the unexpected and always pad the budget.

Another great reminder from moving—don't expect perfection—it doesn't exist. It doesn't exist with packing, cleaning, unpacking. It doesn't exist in life. I needed that reminder!

One experience that kind of surprised me—shopping local can be a challenge. I bought what I needed from local stores, but sometimes they didn't make it easy. When a local store has limited options and higher prices, the store needs to focus on CUSTOMER SERVICE. When going to a local retailer is a better experience than buying on-line, our businesses will thrive. Even Humboldt Made isn't going to help us if it's not Humboldt Made Enjoyable.

And--Just because you liked things one way doesn't mean it can't be changed—you may like it more in a new place—and you may not. It can always be moved again. A new angle and a new way of looking at things help us find a new perspective.

A word of caution—keep everything you absolutely need in one box and guard it with your life. Trying to find Q-tips and not having them in the morning was brutal.

As I look around at the still unopened boxes and stuff that still needs to find its place in my new home, I hope yet again that this is the last move I ever have to make!

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