

# Moving — hot or not?

For many students, it's time to move again. And for many students, it's a task they hate and put off until the last second. For others, though, moving offers some fun. Which camp do you fall in? Read on for two sides of the same coin...

## Heavy boxes and empty walls make moving a nightmare

I hate to move. Which is odd, given that I grew up in a Volkswagen van, and ironic, given how much I love to pack. Dealing with the accumulated detritus of one's life is an unappreciated joy, and it offers some Martha Stewart-like moments (on your knees before her goddess-ship).

But still, moving is a nightmare. Carrying heavy boxes, stacking and un-stacking, negotiating stairs — all count on my "most nightmarish things to do" list, along with trips to the mall. Any mall. They all are different layers of the same hell-onion.

Once moved into a new place, there's the problem of why the boxes won't all fit in their respective rooms, and the puzzle of trying to figure out how to put things away while stacks of boxes stand in the way. I think the laws of geometry cease to exist while one unpacks.

My most hated part of moving, however, is the empty, glaring walls. Once I'm in a home for a while, the walls get covered with my favorite pieces of art (and softcore porn, I'll ad-

mit it), various cloth hangings and the random bits of cultural hodgepodge I refuse to throw away. Everything is perfectly placed, my feng shui is flowing, and my brain is habituated to the colors and patterns.

Then I have a new place, and it all has to be done over again. My teeth start to grind, and I get sweaty (and no, it's not drugs), and I'm soon reduced to chain-smoking on the couch. But the walls still leer at me, singing their songs of decorating inadequacy.

Despite all this, I look forward to moving because... I get to pack again! I know many people hate this task, but with a little rearranging of one's brain, it's sheer joy. Here's a few tips:

- Take a nostalgia trip. There's nothing like

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## Voice off



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## Moving is exciting, and it opens many possibilities

I absolutely love moving. Just setting foot inside an empty room gives me a thrill. Be it a classroom, a school bus, an office space or a house, the sight of open, untouched space fills my mind with all sorts of possibilities.

Ridiculous, maybe. But I thrive on change for that very reason. Small changes, mind you. I'd be perfectly content moving around the same town the rest of my life — that is, until I sell everything and roam in my Winnebago.

As a child, rearranging furniture was always one of my favorite activities (I foresee a problem with this Winnebago plan). But the bonus of moving to a new room is... it's already clean! I can put my bed anywhere I want, with any view I want to see every morning (or af-

ternoon, as the case may be). I can arrange shelves, crates and tapestries to create a den for lounging or, well, nevermind — and all in a 15-by-15 space.

This means, of course, that being a college student has been perfect for me — this will be the ninth time I've moved in five years. So you'd think this would help keep the level of crap I've collected to a minimum. Oh, no. And it's for this very reason that I absolutely hate moving.

I just can't throw anything away. Someday I know I'll be dying to see every magazine clipping I ever hung on my wall, every toy I ever got in a kid's meal, every near-spent candle that still has one final burn left. That's my other issue: I refuse to use the last of anything. I just know that someday I'll just have to have that last droplet of raspberry-kiwi elbow exfoliant.

So here I find myself, reveling in the excitement of creating a new space for myself, yet

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