



U-Haul offers a wide array of trucks and supplies for moving, from trailers that barely handle a one-bedroom apartment to multi-ton trucks that accommodate the bulk of an entire house.

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us.

Battle  
of the  
century



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# SHIPPING

Who will  
come out  
on top?

BY NICHOLAS MANDELBERG  
DAILY EMERALD FREELANCE REPORTER

As the last of the rainy season wanes into the bloom of spring, the time has almost come to sell textbooks, wrap knick-knacks in paper and prepare for the summer months. But before the long days of sun bathing by the pool and musing over barbecues commence, students need to address how they want to move personal belongings.

There are several options ranging from storing items in facilities to shipping them home, but the battle is in finding the most cost-efficient plan.

"Last year, my father drove from Portland with a rental truck and then drove my stuff back home, but I think it's cheaper to

Among popular options for dealing with property over the summer are storage, shipment and transportation via truck

find some place to store it here in town 'til next year," sophomore Nikki Smith said.

Many rental apartments and houses run on the same schedule as the University but allow students the option to move in during the summer. This can require paying rent months in advance if students go home for the summer, but it leaves the option of having the safety and space for storing their belongings until fall.

Storage facilities are a cheaper alternative, ranging from monthly payments of \$30 to \$40 for 25 square feet to \$120 for 200 square feet.

Students can also move their belongings home for the summer. Rental truck companies offer assorted vehicle sizes for a

one-way move.

"It seems ludicrous to put all the time, money and effort into moving your stuff back home when you're going to have to bring it right back again a couple of months down the road," said Nicholas Van Zante, a student at Lane Community College.

The price of moving north to Portland or south to Ashland is between \$70 and \$120 depending on the vehicle, whereas moving to Bend or to the coast can run students as much as \$500. For out-of-state students, the Midwest or East Coast could run as much as \$2,000 for a one-way move. A word to the wise for students who choose to rent a vehicle: Remember to book a vehicle in advance to

ensure there will be one available on the proposed moving date.

Another option is shipping items home. Many shipping companies will ship items in bulk; however, that can add up to as much as \$600 for as little as five 30-pound boxes.

At four cubic feet per box, this may not afford sufficient room for students' personal effects.

With all the choices for what to do with their stuff, it's easy for students to find a solution. But they often end up spending more money than necessary. Whatever students decide to do to make the transition from this year to the next, they should seek the safest and most affordable way to transport their belongings.

# Hunting for housemates

Getting along with roommates and housemates can be tricky; finding the perfect person or people to share living space with is essential

BY JON ITKIN  
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You can't choose your family, but you can choose your housemates. Sharing an apartment, duplex or house during college can be a great way to save money and make friends — or enemies. Finding the right people to live with is as crucial as finding the right classes to take, but because they don't make course catalogs listing people, it's not that easy.

Noah Jack, a 21-year-old landscape architecture student, has shared houses for two years with 10 housemates. In his experience, respect is the most important element in a good housemate dynamic.

"If roommates respect each other, then they will understand each other's imperfections and not take things personally," Jack said. "If they don't, then little issues can get blown up

really easily."

Jack currently shares a house with four students. Some of his housemates are old friends and some are former strangers who answered ads. Jack said good communication is the main reason they get along.

"My roommates and I don't have regular gripe sessions or chore charts, but when we need to, we sit and talk about any issues we have, and stuff gets taken care of," Jack said.

Many University students choose to live with good friends. But some shared-housing veterans say lifestyle issues can get in the way of even the strongest friendships.

Environmental studies major Evan Smith, 21, had an experience when good friends turned out to be bad housemates.

"I moved into a place sophomore year with my best friends," Smith said. "It was great at first, but after a while the partying started to

pile up, people weren't paying bills on time and everything was always a mess. I wound up getting stuck with a lot of the bills, and it strained my friendships with my housemates."

Smith recommends giving a lot of consideration to potential housemates' living habits.

"I wish I had thought more about the responsibilities of sharing a place," he said. "If I could go back again, I would have tried to live with responsible people rather than just getting a place with my buddies."

Other students find housemates via classified ads in local newspapers, on Web sites such as craigslist.org and roommates.com, or on signs posted on campus and around town.

International studies major Jude Kirstein, 21, stresses the importance of interviewing potential housemates.

"The first thing I always ask is why a person is leaving their current housing situation," she said. "That way I know if people got kicked out of a house for being lazy or sloppy."

Kirstein shares a house where the landlord

reduces the rent in exchange for work trade. Her housemates found the place by answering a newspaper ad.

"I made sure to find people who are comfortable doing chores and taking care of things around the house, and it worked out great," she said.

In the past, Kirstein wasn't so lucky. A transfer student from the Chicago area, she recalled a previous living situation that was far from ideal.

"I lived in an apartment with a couple that seemed cool at first, but they would fight with each other and leave piles of dishes," she said. "It became unbearable."

Kirstein recommends avoiding living with a couple, no matter how stable they seem.

"Every couple fights, and their housemates have to deal with their drama," Kirstein said. "If a couple is ready to move in with each other, they should get their own place anyway."

## ONLINE ROOMMATE SEARCHES

www.craigslist.org  
www.rent.com  
www.eugeneweekly.com  
www.roommates.com