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How to find the best mover for your move:

Moving costs a lot of money.

Therefore, you may want to ask several moving companies for a quote. This is a good idea: every move is particular, and one moving company may come up with a more precise volume estimate, better solutions and a better price for your move than another. A competitive situation forces each company to calculate the costs of your move carefully. Plus: observing how a company deals with your moving request and answers your questions gives a good clue on a moving company's service quality.

You may not find it quite so easy, however, to really assess which of the companies is offering you the best value for money. Take some time and take your whole situation into consideration.

Insist on a quote based on a survey at your residence,

if your move is more than just a few boxes and a scant couple of other things! If you provide information over the phone or draw up a list of items, the company will quote for a specific volume on the information provided, but this may not suit your requirements and may lead to disputes on the moving

day and to added costs. A survey is the best opportunity to discuss the details of your move. Move consultants are ready to give advice how to prepare for the move and save money, and they will help you in every stage of your move. Having built up trust in a particular moving consultant is worth accepting his or her quote, even if its a little higher than the quote of an anonymous competitor.

Insist on a written and detailed quote.

Don't ever just relay on spoken word! A move consists of a lot of essential and optional services, each one of them having an effect on the price. Its easy to quote low and then add all kinds of costs later on, for instance for customs broking or terminal handling (THC) charges or for assembling furniture at destination. Therefore, check what is included in the costs, what extra charges are listed, and what is left out altogether, for instance port charges, customs broking charges or charges for destination services.

Be consistent in your requirements.

In order to be comparable, quotes must be based on the same factual basis. If you ask one company for full destination service for your whole household goods and the next one for delivery into storage of only a reduced part of your items, the latter will come up with a much lower price without being necessarily cheaper.

Put value on safety, on time, on reliability. Compromises in safety, in time taken with transport and in the employment of unskilled packers are the easiest way to lower the price of a move and increase profits at the same time. Therefore, ask whether the moving company is employing its own trained crew, whether you will be assigned a personal moving consultant,

whether your household goods are shipped separately in a sealed container or lift van, and whether they are shipped directly and with the next available vessel. If you fail to discuss these aspects with your moving company, you may end up with a bargain price, but also waiting for months for your shipment, arriving with damages caused by bad packing or with missing or mingled up items, and no one in the moving company really knowing what is going on.

Check for references.

The company website will indicate whether the moving company has a DIN EN ISO 9001 certificate and whether it is organized in one or more networks of quality overseas movers like, for instance, the International Association of Movers (IAM) or the German AMÖ, a rather powerful organization as far as compliance with rules of law is concerned. This indicates that the move will be organized according to internationally accepted standards. Ask people who have moved recently to talk about their experience.

Be fair!

A survey is generally free of charge for you, but of course the company is incurring costs for this survey.

If you let one company representative do the job and then take his or her detailed report as a basis to get other quotes, you are cheating on a quality service. So, if you want to compare, ask out another one or two representatives, but no more. Three quotes should suffice to get you ample information and a fair price.

Beware of scams!

Quotes based on the same factual basis and provided by serious moving company usually do not differ very widely, as the costs for manpower, packing materials and shipping are more or less the same. So, if one company comes up with a quote far below the others, be alarmed rather than delighted. They'll find a way to charge you extra money before delivery.

Remember: Once you have handed over your household goods to the moving company, they may be held back if you do not pay what is expected of you.

So, if you find a REALLY low price, check extra carefully before you accept that quote. Otherwise, you may buy expensive problems instead of cheap solutions.

For more detailed information on overseas moves, please consult www.movingscam.com/articles/a-guide-to-international-shipping

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