

How to Move a Piano Safely: The Complete Checklist

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Before the Move

- ☐ Measure all doorways, hallways, and stairwells before moving day
- ☐ Determine if a piano dolly, moving straps, and padding blankets are available
- ☐ Remove the piano lid, music desk, and pedal lyre if possible
- ☐ Wrap the piano tightly in moving blankets and secure with tape or stretch wrap
- ☐ Ensure you have at least 3 to 4 people for an upright, 5 to 6 for a grand
- ☐ Clear a path through your home completely before attempting the move

During the Move

- ☐ Lift from the bottom, never push or pull from the top
- ☐ Use a piano dolly rated for the weight (upright pianos: 400 to 900 lbs)
- ☐ Navigate stairs slowly with one person guiding from the top, one from below
- ☐ Never lay a grand piano on its side without removing the legs first
- ☐ Secure the piano in the moving truck with moving straps on all sides
- ☐ Do not let the piano shift during transport

After the Move

- ☐ Place the piano away from exterior walls, heating vents, and windows
- ☐ Let the piano acclimate to its new environment for 2 to 4 weeks
- ☐ Schedule a tuning appointment at least 3 weeks after the move
- ☐ Check all parts: lid, music desk, pedals and bench
- ☐ Note any buzz or rattle that was not there before

Pro Tip: Why pianos need tuning after a move

Even a short move changes the humidity, temperature, and vibration your piano is exposed to. The strings and soundboard respond to these changes, causing the pitch to drift. Most piano technicians recommend waiting 2 to 4 weeks before tuning to allow the instrument to settle.

Need help moving your piano in the GTA? Universal Piano Services provides professional piano moving with full insurance coverage. Visit universalpianoservices.com/services/piano-moving/ or call us today.