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When planning a move within 50 to 100 miles, the question inevitably arises: **should I rent a truck and do it myself, or hire local movers?** At first glance, renting a truck might seem like the cheapest option, but the “DIY moving vs movers” debate has more layers than just rental fees. To help you make an informed choice, we’ll break down what counts as a local move, what services local movers provide, how pricing works, and the pros and cons of both options.

References from *OCNJ Daily*, *This Old House*, and insights from *Thumbtack* experts help shed light on these moving dilemmas.

What Counts as a Local Move?

A “local move” typically refers to moves under about 50 to 100 miles. This range covers most in-city and between-nearby-towns moves. According to *This Old House*, a move within this distance is often a single-day operation, unlike long-distance moves that can stretch over several days or require complex logistics.

Local moving companies handle moves in this radius routinely, offering services tailored for quick turnaround and efficiency.

What Do Local Movers Do?

The biggest difference between renting a truck and hiring movers is the scope of services. Local movers don’t just drive your stuff—they provide a comprehensive service that can make your move significantly easier and safer.

Packing

Many local movers offer professional packing services. They bring their own packing supplies, carefully wrap fragile items, and organize boxes to optimize space and safety.

Loading

Experienced movers load your belongings using proper techniques to avoid damage and to maximize truck space. This includes disassembling bulky furniture if needed, and protecting floors and walls during the process.

Driving

Of course, movers handle the driving, which eliminates the stress of navigating unfamiliar routes while hauling heavy loads.

Unloading & Basic Assembly

At your new location, movers unload your belongings and often provide basic assembly services—reassembling beds, tables, and other furniture to save you time and avoid injury.

Furniture Protection & Insurance

A crucial advantage is protection: local movers use blankets, padding, and <https://ocnjdaily.com/news-from-our-partners/how-local-movers-simplify-residential-relocations-a-complete-guide-for-homeowners/> straps to secure

your furniture. Plus, reputable companies provide insurance coverage, giving peace of mind should an accident occur. This is a factor many DIY movers overlook.

Truck Rental vs Movers: A Cost Comparison

Cost is usually the deciding factor. Let's compare the typical expenses associated with renting a truck versus hiring local movers for a move within 50-100 miles.



Expense	Truck Rental & DIY Moving	Hiring Local Movers
Truck Rental Fee	\$20 - \$40/day (plus mileage fees)	
Included Fuel	Varies by distance and truck size; often \$50 - \$100	Included
Packing Supplies	\$50 - \$150 (boxes, tape, padding)	Usually included or optional
Labor	Your time and effort (often unpaid)	Hourly rate (see below)
Insurance & Protection	Optional, additional cost	Included with movers' coverage
Basic Furniture Assembly	Your responsibility	Often included

Hourly Pricing for Local Movers

Local movers typically charge by the hour. According to *Thumbtack*, expect hourly rates to range from \$80 to \$120 for two movers plus a truck. Larger jobs or those requiring more helpers naturally increase the hourly rate.

What affects the hourly pricing?

- **Stairs and Elevators:** Moves involving multiple flights or no elevator usually cost more due to the added physical labor.
- **Long Carries:** Movers consider the distance from your door to the truck when pricing.
- **Bulky or Fragile Items:** Special handling or additional packing materials can add cost.
- **Time of Year:** Peak moving season (summer months) tends to carry higher prices.

From my experience as a former moving crew lead, movers who give vague “half day” pricing without a detailed checklist of stairs, carries, or bulky items often end up charging more than the initial quote. Always ask “is that in writing?” before booking.

DIY Moving vs Hiring Movers: Pros and Cons

DIY Moving (Truck Rental)

- **Pros:**
 - Lower upfront cost if you have help.
 - Full control over your schedule.
 - No need to coordinate with movers.
- **Cons:**
 - Physical labor can be exhausting and risky without proper skills or equipment.
 - Hidden costs like fuel, packing supplies, and insurance add up.
 - Packing and loading may be inefficient, risking damage.
 - Traffic, parking, and navigating large trucks can be stressful.

Hiring Local Movers

- **Pros:**
 - Professional packing, loading, and unloading reduce damage risk.
 - Insurance and furniture protection included.
 - Saves time and reduces physical strain.
 - Basic assembly/disassembly included at many companies.
- **Cons:**
 - Higher upfront cost compared to truck rental alone.
 - Less control over the schedule.
 - Quality and pricing vary—beware of bait-and-switch pricing and movers without insurance.

Final Thoughts: Which Is Cheaper?

While truck rental fees seem low, when you factor in all labor, supplies, time off work, physical strain, and hidden costs, hiring local movers often proves to be cost-competitive. You gain not just the truck, but a skilled, insured team and peace of mind. As *OCNJ Daily* advises, the best value isn't always the cheapest price—it's the service quality, reliability, and protection of your belongings.

For moves within 50-100 miles, ask movers detailed questions about their hourly rates, what's included, and if things like stairs and long carries affect the rate. Get all pricing in writing and verify insurance coverage. When you do, you're more likely to avoid the common pitfalls I saw as a crew lead—bait-and-switch pricing and movers who hide fees with vague estimates.

Making a DIY move can be a rewarding challenge if you're prepared and physically fit, but for busy schedules, large homes, or delicate furniture, local movers provide a safer, often more economical option in the long run.

Whatever you decide, comparison shopping is key. Use platforms like *Thumbtack* to get multiple quotes and reviews, consult trusted resources like *This Old House* for packing tips, and local news sites such as *OCNJ Daily* for regional mover reputations and advice.

Remember: moving is a major event—make sure your plan fits your budget, your timeline, and your peace of mind.

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