

lake norman

WOMAN

CELEBRATING THE BEST OF WOMEN

SHOES

that get us moving!

CELEBRATE

4th of july

LKN STYLE!

10 THINGS THAT JUST

can't wait

make
your
move

FIND YOUR PASSION
& LIVE YOUR LIFE

2013
*Women
OF
Will*
AWARDS

KNOW AN OUTSTANDING
LKN WOMAN? NOMINATE HER!

HOW TO MOVE *with* DESIGN IN MIND

BY: STARR MILLER

THIS TIME OF YEAR the streets are lined with OPEN HOUSE signs that soon will lead to moving trucks. With home sales picking up in our community, it's an exciting time, although it can be stressful for those jumping in and buying a new home.

Planning can temper stress, but not simply four weeks prior to closing. The minute you start looking, start preparing! Remember, in this market, trade professionals are busy and may not be available at your beck and call. *W*

1 *Several scenarios may occur:*

- The best case is a long closing on both your new and your previous properties, giving you time to prepare and to make good decisions.
- Second best is a short closing: your furnishings go into storage, and you take your time before moving into your new home.
- Worst case is a short closing and bam, boom, bomb: you're moving tomorrow with no time to prepare.

2 *In every scenario, before you even start looking:*

- **INVENTORY:** List the furnishings you plan to bring to the new home. Photograph and measure the width, depth, and height of each piece. Attach a swatch of the fabric for upholstered pieces, if possible. If not available, use paint chips from a local store to match colors. Also, measure and photograph all rugs and lighting. Keep all information in a binder (Make a copy for your designer!). Use this book (and a tape measure) as you review and measure homes, rather than guess if something will fit. If you loved a tile pattern you had in your previous home, write it in your book!
- **WISH LIST:** If you cannot live without a gourmet kitchen with a hood that vents outside,



write it down. When the momentum gets going it's important to refer back to your notes.

- **DESIGNER:** If you're hiring a designer, invite her to review homes. Have her see how you live now in contrast to your new home. If you are building a new home, include your designer during the planning stage because she can suggest important plan changes that may save you in the end.

3 *After the inspection is finalized:*

- Photograph every room for before pictures when valuing the upgrades you'll make while living in the home.
- Measure every room. Do not just go by builder floor plans (Plans change in the building process). Double check everything.
- Draw floor plans for each room, including your furniture as you see the room coming together. Name each room to facilitate marking boxes and easy communication with the movers. Determine needed electrical changes and moving-day directions. Create your shopping list for new pieces.

REVIEW FOR POSSIBLE CHANGES PRIOR TO MOVING AND CONSIDER COMPLETION TIME BEFORE YOUR MOVE-IN DATE:

- Dry-wall repair
- Paint/wallpaper
- Re-finishing wood floors
- New carpet or carpet cleaning
- Electrical upgrades: sound system, cable, satellite, Wi-Fi, floor outlets
- Kitchen upgrades and appliances
- Bathroom upgrades
- Ceiling popcorn removal
- Chimney, vent/air-duct cleaning
- Toilet and/or toilet seat replacement
- Re-caulking bathtubs, toilet bases
- Built-in furniture changes
- Insulation upgrades
- Closet systems
- Alarm system upgrades

