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MOVING TO DALLAS?

HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW.

There's a reason why they say everything's bigger in Texas - and Dallas is no different. Even the most seasoned big-city slickers can take one step inside the Dallas city limits and start to feel overwhelmed by the sheer size of the city. But if you've made the decision to move to Dallas, you have made a fantastic choice. Dallas is a fantastic place to call home. It is rich in culture, friendly faces, exciting attractions, wonderful neighborhoods, and so much more.

Here at Gecko Green, we are proud to call ourselves Dallas locals. We've lived and worked in this area for years, some of us for our entire lives! Believe us when we say that Dallas finds a way to get into your heart. This city has something for everyone, with a booming metropolis for young and established professionals, great neighborhoods and schools for those raising a family, and exciting adventures awaiting retirees.

The problem is, Dallas is so big that sometimes it can be hard to know where to start! But don't despair! By downloading this homeowner's guide, you've already taken the first step toward educating yourself about all the things there are to know and love about Dallas. We're locals, so we are happy to show you the ropes and let you in on our local secrets as we hope to help you settle into your new Dallas home.



HOMEOWNER'S RESOURCES

If you're hoping to buy a home in Dallas, sometimes just looking at a few listings can be overwhelming. With many different utility companies to choose from, real estate agents to consider and much more, you might be wanting to turn tail and head for the hills! Never fear, simply read below for our picks for homeowner resources to get you started!

“If you’re looking for a great real estate agent to find you the home of your dreams at the right price, contact Charlie May!”

REAL ESTATE AGENTS

In Dallas, real estate is booming, and there are many different real estate agents out there who are more than happy to show you around this wonderful, beautiful city to help you find your new home. If you’re looking for a great real estate agent to find you the home of your dreams at the right price, contact Charlie May! Other great real estate agents include:

VIP Realty

Ebby Halliday Realtors

Alex Prins Real Estate

UTILITY COMPANIES

Once you have purchased your home, the next step is to find a utility company that you can trust. You know, in case you want lights on and all. Here at Gecko Green, we recommend that you use these services:

Plumbers:

Dallas Plumbing
Company

Lawn and Pest:

Gecko Green

Electric Company:

Green Mountain
Energy

Cable Company:

AT&T U-Verse or
Verizon



MOVING RESOURCES

Everything's bigger in Texas, and that means the moves are too! From finding your way around our famous Dallas highways (which are gigantic!) to navigating the ins and outs of moving into your new home, check out these moving resources to make sure your big move to the "Big D" is a smooth one!

MOVING TIPS AND TRICKS

Whether you have moved a million times before or this is your first big move, anyone can benefit from a little moving advice from the locals! Moving to Dallas is different than moves to anywhere else in the county for a variety of reasons. Check out our moving quick tips and tricks to get you started so you can plan ahead and look forward to a smooth move!

- In Dallas, there are a lot of sports arenas and entertainment options—which is a great thing for people who live here. Not so much for those who are moving here. When you plan your move, check what sports and entertainment events are going on. The last thing you want is to get stuck in traffic for hours because you planned your move on game day!
- Consider the weather. In Dallas, we get some dog-gone hot summer days. If you plan to move in the summertime, be sure to pack lots of water and ice—trust us, you'll need it! You want to spend your first night in your new home, not in the ER.
- Pack an essentials box. There is nothing worse than getting to your new home exhausted and surrounded by boxes to unpack only to find that you have no idea where your toothbrush is. Avoid that scenario completely by packing a box with the essentials you will need for the first few days in your home, so you can survive before all the boxes are unpacked!
- Don't forget Fido! If you have pets, pack them an essentials box too! That way, when you get settled in, your pets won't have to do without their toys or favorite snacks during an already stressful time.



LOCAL INFORMATION

One of the best parts of moving to a new place is getting to know the area and exploring your new home town. While there are many different travel guides and tourist books out there that will tell you the best monuments to see, there is no substitute for a list from the locals! Read on to learn all the local information you need to get settled in your new home in Dallas, so you can explore the city and start becoming a local yourself!



LOCAL COMMUNITIES

When you begin searching for a home in Dallas, the endless list of suburbs can seem to go on forever. How do you choose the best places to live? Well, we've done all the hard work and made it easy for you. Check out our list of the best communities in Dallas to live in and make your home search that much simpler:

Austin Ranch: For home buyers looking for a little bit of luxury, Austin Ranch offers luxury homes alongside fantastic retail space so you can live close to where you shop!

The Knolls of Frisco: Located in Frisco right outside of the Dallas metropolitan area, the Knolls of Frisco offer gorgeous single family homes in a neighborhood setting, perfect for growing families.

Stonebridge Ranch: If you're looking for the best in Dallas country club living, Stonebridge Ranch is for you!

Grapevine: Grapevine is a lovely community near Dallas and Fort Worth that offers many community festivals and events as well as wonderful single family homes and townhomes.

Southlake: If you want to live somewhere with great shopping nearby and plenty of community activities, Southlake may just be the perfect choice!

Flower Mound: If you are looking for a small town feel with all the amenities that living near Dallas has to offer, Flower Mound is the ideal place for you to call home.



SCHOOLS

Do you have a growing family, or hope to have one in the near future? If so, part of your decision on where to live rests on the location of the best schools in the area--and the Dallas area is full of wonderful schools for all of your children. Check out some of the best ones below:

High Schools: North Dallas High School, Skyline High School, Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing Arts

Middle Schools: Robert T. Hill Middle School, Billy Earl Dade Middle School

Elementary School: George Peabody Elementary School, William L. Cabell Elementary School, Everette L. DeGolyer Elementary School

COLLEGES

Your kids aren't the only ones who have a potential for a great education by living in the Dallas area. Did you know that this great city also offers many colleges for you to continue your own education? Just a few of these great higher education institutions are outlined below:

The Art Institute of Dallas
Dallas Baptist University
Dallas Theological Seminary
Southern Methodist University
Texas A&M University
Texas Christian University
University of Dallas
University of North Texas
University of Texas
Wade College



CAR DEALERSHIPS

Sometimes when you move to a new place, buying a new car just feels right. If you moved from a big city where tiny cars are the thing, you might find that Dallas' ample space gives you a bit more freedom for a larger vehicle, or perhaps you need some new wheels for your expanding family or business ventures. Whatever your reason, we've got you covered with the best car dealerships in the business! We suggest you head over to Sam Pack's Five Star or Bob Tomes Ford for a great deal on your next vehicle!

PROFESSIONAL COMPANIES

When you move to a new place, part of getting settled is getting a new set of professional companies that can help you out when the time comes. Finding new financial planners and other professional companies that you may need can be a hassle, but lucky for you, we've come up with a list of helpful professionals that can ensure that you have what you need. Check out our list below for our suggestions:

Accountant: Yivian Chen, CPA

Attorneys: Law Offices of Michael Lowe

Financial Planner: Heritage Financial Planning

“You might find that Dallas' ample space gives you a bit more freedom for a larger vehicle.”



HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

One of the most stressful parts of your move to Dallas may be establishing new health care professionals to take care of you and your family. Although you should choose the healthcare providers who are right for you and your family's needs, here are our suggestions for professional healthcare providers right here in Dallas:

Hospital: Baylor Hospital

Pediatrician: Forest Lane Pediatrics, Pediatricians of Dallas

Optometrist: Eye Pieces, Dallas Eye Doctor

Dentist: MINT Dentistry, Ideal Dental Uptown, Jeffrey V. Jones, DDS

Orthodontist: Walnut Central Orthodontics, Highland Park Orthodontics

General Practitioner: Dallas Medical Specialists

EMPLOYMENT/COST OF LIVING

The cost of living in Dallas can be higher than most people expect, but what you lose in frugality you make up for in vibrancy and excitement that the city provides. Dallas is a thriving metropolis of business and opportunity that thrives on ingenuity and hard work.

Being as big as it is, Dallas has attracted an immense amount of business and with that comes jobs! Dallas is hiring and open for business, with positions usually available in every industry ranging from transportation, to manufacturing, to retail, to technology and everything in between! If you're looking for a new career, you will likely find what you are looking for in Dallas!

QUICK TIP!

While living in the city can be costly, choosing to instead make your home in one of the many beautiful suburbs around the city can be a more cost-effective choice!



TRANSPORTATION

Like many cities of its size, Dallas of course has a small parking problem. But that hasn't stopped the city from growing and it certainly won't stop you from enjoying it. Enter the Dallas Area Rapid Transit, or DART for short. This rapid transit system is Dallas' answer to the metro or subway, and is a great way to get around town cheaply, quickly, and in a way that is eco-friendly, too! Many locals know the schedules like the back of their hand, but to get you started, you can always check the website for schedules and tips for planning your route. Although riding DART may seem intimidating at first, after a while it will become simply another part of Dallas' charm!

GOVERNMENT INFORMATION AND LINKS

If you're choosing to live in the Dallas area, it pays to have a little information about our **local government**. Here's the names you need to know!

Mayor: Mike Rawlings

City Manager: A.C. Gonzalez

City Attorney: Warren M.S. Ernst

City Auditor: Craig D. Kinton

City Secretary: Rosa Rios

Administrative Judge: Daniel Solis



LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

Now that we've gone through all the difficult stuff, it's time to get to the fun part--all the great local attractions that Dallas, Texas has to offer! For those of us who have lived here a long time, we have made annual traditions with our family and friends to visit these local attractions, and we are excited to share our favorites with you! We hope that you will take these suggestions and make memories and traditions of your own.

“We have some of the best barbecue in the world, and some of the best Tex-Mex you can find anywhere.”

ACTIVITIES AND THINGS TO DO

If you live in Dallas, you are never short on exciting things to see and do. Check out just a few of our favorites below:

Dallas World Aquarium

Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Gardens

Klyde Urban Park

Concerts at American Airlines Center

Dallas Cowboys at AT&T Stadium

Frontiers of Flight Museum

The Dallas Zoo

GREAT RESTAURANTS

In Dallas, we are known for our varied restaurants and flavors that come from our diverse population. We have some of the best barbecue in the world, and some of the best Tex-Mex you can find anywhere. There are a zillion restaurants out there saying that they're the best, but we're locals, so we know the scoop. Instead of trudging through a bunch of questionable restaurants to find the best ones, let us give you a few suggestions to try so you can find your favorite Dallas restaurant in no time!

American Restaurants: Zeke's, Dino's Steakhouse, Houston's

Mexican Restaurants: Taco Diner, Mia Cocina, Joe T. Garcias

Asian Restaurants: P.F. Changs, Blue Fish, Yummy Thai



CONCLUSION

You see, moving to Dallas doesn't have to be a stressful experience. Hopefully this Homeowner's Guide to Moving to Dallas has been as informative. We are so excited to share our city with you and to make you our new neighbors! Let us be the first ones to welcome you to Dallas, and the first to be able to say welcome home! To learn more about Gecko Green, visit www.geckogreen.com.