GECKO GREEN
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HOMEOWNER'S GUIDE TO DALLAS-FORT WORTH

PRESENTED BY GECKO GREEN

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Conclusion

MOVING TO THE DALLAS-FORT WORTH AREA?

HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

There's a reason why they say everything is bigger in Texas, and the Dallas-Forth Worth area is no different. Even the most seasoned big-city slickers can take one step inside the DFW Metroplex and start to feel overwhelmed by the sheer size. However, if you've decided to move to the DFW area, you have made a fantastic choice. DFW 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 the Dallas area finds its way into your heart. This city has something for everyone: 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 that DFW 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 to know and love about the DFW area. 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 DFW home.

HOMEOWNER'S RESOURCES

If you're hoping to buy a home in the Dallas-Forth Worth area, 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 want to turn your tail and head for the hills! Never fear; simply keep reading for our picks for homeowner resources to get you started!

HOMEOWNER RESOURCES

REAL ESTATE AGENTS

In Dallas-Forth Worth, real estate is booming, and many real estate agents are happy to show you around this wonderful, beautiful metroplex 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 finding a trustworthy utility company. You know, in case you want lights on and all.

Here at Gecko Green, we recommend that you use the following services:

PLUMBERS:

DALLAS PLUMBING COMPANY

ELECTRIC COMPANY:

Green Mountain Energy

LAWN AND PEST:

GECKO GREEN
LAWN CARE & PEST CONTROL

CABLE COMPANY:

at&t U-verse

verizon

MOVING RESOURCES

Everything is bigger in Texas, and that means 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 & 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 from moving anywhere else in the country for a variety of reasons. Check out our quick tips and tricks to get you started so you can plan ahead and look forward to a smooth move!

In Dallas-Forth Worth, 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 doggone 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. Nothing is 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 hometown. While many travel guides and tourist books out there 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-Fort Worth, so you can explore the area and start becoming a local yourself!

LOCAL COMMUNITIES

When you begin searching for a home in the Dallas-Forth Worth area, the endless list of suburbs can seem to go on forever. How do you choose the best places to live? We've done all the hard work and made it easy for you. Check out our list of the best communities in DFW 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 offers 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 a 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.

LOCAL EDUCATION

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 SCHOOLS:

GEORGE PEABODY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

WILLIAM L. CABELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

EVERETTE L. DEGOLYER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

COLLEGES

Your kids aren't the only ones who have the 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

LOCAL PROFESSIONALS

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

LOCAL PROFESSIONALS

QUICK TIP!

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

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 the 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 jobs come with that! Dallas is hiring and open for business, with positions usually available in every industry ranging from transportation to manufacturing, retail, technology, and everything in between! If you're looking for a new career, you will likely find what you are looking for in Dallas!

HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

One of the most stressful parts of your move to Dallas may be establishing new healthcare professionals to care for 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

LOCAL INFORMATION

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 an eco-friendly way! Many locals know the schedules like the back of their hand, but to get started, you can always check the website for schedules and tips for planning your route. Although riding DART may seem intimidating at first, it will become simply another part of Dallas' charm after a while!

GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

If you're choosing to live in the Dallas area, it pays to have some information about our local government. So, here are 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 you will take these suggestions and make memories and traditions of your own.

LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

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. A zillion restaurants are out there saying that they're the best, but we're locals, so we know the scoop. Instead of trudging through many 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

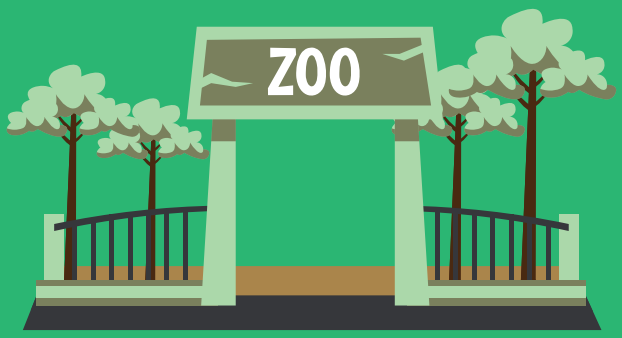
JOE T. GARCIAS

ASIAN RESTAURANTS:

P.F. CHANG'S

BLUE FISH

YUMMY THAI



ACTIVITIES & 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

CONCLUSION

You see, moving to Dallas doesn't have to be a stressful experience. Hopefully, this Homeowner's Guide for Moving to Dallas-Fort Worth has been as informative. We are excited to share our city and make you our new neighbors! So, 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.

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