

labmovers

A BTI Newsletter - August 2026

The best time of year to move your lab



There's no single calendar date that's right for every lab move. Timing isn't exactly random either. Grant cycles, academic schedules, weather, and the mover's schedule can all play a factor. Here are some of the questions lab managers ask us when mapping out a move date.

Does the season actually matter for a lab move?

More than you might think, particularly if your move includes a cold transport. Extreme summer heat and winter cold both put added stress on temperature-sensitive equipment during loading and transit. So every extra minute a freezer spends outside a controlled environment is a minute working against you. Spring and fall tend to be the most forgiving conditions, though a well-run cold transport plan can handle any season with the right contingencies in place.

Should we time our move around the academic calendar?

If you're a university or hospital-affiliated lab, yes. The gaps between semesters — late May to early June, or late December to early January typically mean fewer people in the building, less competition for loading docks and elevators, and research schedules that are naturally lighter. Unfortunately, everyone else has the same idea, so book early if you're aiming for one of these windows.

What about grant cycles and fiscal year deadlines?

Worth mapping out well before you pick a date. A move that lands in the middle of a grant renewal or a fiscal year close can create headaches around equipment reporting, budget approvals, and staff availability. It's why many labs plan moves for right after a grant cycle closes out, when there's more flexibility and less risk of disrupting active-funding deliverables.

Is there a slow season for lab movers, and does that help us?

Yes — late fall through mid-winter (outside the holiday academic break) tends to be quieter for movers. That will give you a little more flexibility on scheduling and sometimes better availability of specialized cold transport equipment.

How far ahead should we lock in our date once we know our window?

As soon as you can. Lab movers—particularly ones equipped for cold transport like Lab Movers—book out well in advance. Popular windows like semester breaks fill up fastest. Six months of lead time is the standard recommendation, and that's especially true if your date falls in one of those high-demand windows.

What if our move date isn't really up to us — say, a lease deadline?

Then the planning shifts from "when" to "how." A tighter or less-than-ideal timeline is manageable, but it means starting inventory, permitting, and mover conversations immediately rather than waiting. The earlier your mover knows about the constraint, the more we can plan around it.

The right time to move is less about the calendar and more about aligning your research schedule, funding cycle, and building access — with enough lead time to do it right. If you're mapping out a move date, we're happy to talk through timing before you commit to one.

Call Lab Movers

What clients have to say about Labmovers.com

"What an extremely professional and hard-working crew we had for this move. George and his team were phenomenal!" said Sharon Janoski, business manager, Department of Molecular Microbiology, Washington University School of Medicine. "Professional, BTI kept everything organized, kept hallways and walkways clear, laid out floor protection as requested (with no complaints), worked hard and non-stop. Truly a pleasure."

--Sharon Janoski, business manager, Washington University



Have a move coming up? Email us.

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