

How to Prepare Your Grandfather Clock for a Move

Follow these easy steps and you are on your way to moving your Grandfather clock. Always start with the weights down about 3 - 4 days of movement.

1. Open the side access window (if any) and move them to a safe place where you may not step on one and break it.
2. If the clock has cable holding the weights, insert 3 - 2" square Styrofoam blocks above each pulley between the cables. If you do not have a Styrofoam block, make a tight square of newspaper about 2" inches in diameter and hold the block or newspaper square above the pulley as you wind the weights one at a time until they stop with the paper or Styrofoam block jammed above the pulleys. This procedure prevents the cable from tangling when the weights are removed. You need to keep tension on the cables.
3. For clocks with chains, raise the weights so the clock is about half wound (middle of the clock). Use a piece of thin wire or twist ties to string the chains together just where the chains protrude below the movement and tie the wire together; this action will secure the chains so they do not come off their sprockets. These need to be tight or the chain will come off the sprocket.
4. Remove the weights while wearing gloves and look at the bottom to see if they are marked "Left - Center - Right" . If not, mark them so they can be replaced to the same position on the clock for installation later. For clocks with chains, secure the chains by bunching them from bottom to top and wrapping them in newspaper and place a rubber band around the package so that they do not move around and possibly damage the finish. Package up the weights carefully as not to dent the brass casings.
5. Remove the pendulum by holding it from the middle and slightly moving it up. It should unhook from the pendulum leader easily. DO NOT FORCE IT. The pendulum guide needs to be so that it may not move around during moving and it should never be under a lot of tension in any direction. You may take one or two full width pages of newspaper and gather the loose paper around the pendulum guide. Use just enough so it remains loose, but unable to freely move around.
6. Reinstall the access panels and lock them in or tape them from the inside (glass to wood) so the windows will not come out and break during moving. Close and lock the door(s).