

Blue Dolly Moving Breaks Down What Drives Minneapolis Piano Moving Costs

Minneapolis mover details piano weight classes, disassembly time and stair counts, and why late summer is a better window than a Minnesota January.

MINNEAPOLIS, MN, UNITED STATES, August 21, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- MINNEAPOLIS - [Blue Dolly Moving](#) has published a cost breakdown for piano relocations in the Twin Cities, detailing the variables that determine the price and pushing back on a common assumption among homeowners: that a piano can be quoted the same way as a sofa.



The company reports that piano work does not price on the standard hourly residential model. Quotes are instead built from instrument class, disassembly requirements, the number of steps and thresholds on the path, and access conditions at both ends of the route. Two moves across identical distances can carry materially different prices based on the path alone.

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A piano is not furniture. It is a strung, tensioned instrument that happens to weigh as much as a motorcycle, and it needs to be handled like both.”

Brian Waddick

By weight class, the company sorts pianos into four tiers. Spinets and consoles run 300 to 400 pounds. Full uprights, the most common instrument in older Minneapolis homes, run 500 to 800 pounds and are top-heavy, which changes how the instrument is secured and steered rather than

simply how much of it there is to lift. Baby grands weigh 500 to 650 pounds but require partial disassembly, with legs, lyre and pedals removed so the piano travels on its straight side on a skid board, a process that adds roughly 45 to 90 minutes of labor on each end of the move. Grands and concert grands range from 700 to 1,300 pounds, require a three or four person crew, and generally call for an in-person or video walkthrough before a quote can be issued at all.

The largest single swing factor in a Twin Cities quote is the route, not the mileage. Step counts

are assessed on both the interior and the exterior, and a modest four-step front stoop on a St. Paul or Minneapolis bungalow changes the crew size and equipment list. The metro's older housing stock compounds the issue. Bungalow and story-and-a-half neighborhoods including Longfellow, Nokomis and Highland Park routinely present narrow stairwells, tight landing turns and doorways cut for early 20th century furniture rather than a 700-pound instrument. Downtown high-rise moves introduce a separate set of constraints, including reserved freight elevator windows and loading zone permits.

Timing also matters more for pianos than for general household goods. A piano is a strung instrument under sustained tension, and its soundboard and pinblock respond to swings in temperature and humidity. That makes the late summer and early fall window a more forgiving one in Minnesota than a subzero January transfer or the peak of a humid July. Following any relocation, the company recommends allowing the instrument to acclimate to its new environment before scheduling a tuning, since a piano moved in the morning will not hold a tuning performed the same afternoon.

The company advises homeowners to be direct with any prospective mover on three points. Ask whether the crew carries piano-specific equipment, including skid boards, straps and dedicated piano dollies, rather than the four-wheel dollies used for casegoods. Ask how many handlers will be assigned, since a top-heavy upright taken down stairs by two people is the scenario that most often ends with damage to the instrument, the stairwell, or both. And ask whether the quote is binding, because specialty work carries more variables than a standard load and is where open-ended estimates tend to drift.

Blue Dolly provides specialty and piano [moving services in Minneapolis](#) alongside gun safes, pool tables, hot tubs, fine art, gym equipment and other items that fall outside standard household inventory. The company operates as [local movers in Minneapolis, MN](#), and throughout the metro and outstate Minnesota, including St. Paul, Bloomington, Edina, Minnetonka, Eden Prairie, Maple Grove, Woodbury, Plymouth, Eagan, Wayzata, Maplewood, Lakeville, Duluth and Rochester.

All work is quoted on the company's guaranteed all-inclusive model, with the price locked in before move day and unchanged by how long the job runs. Crews are insured and background checked, and the company handles certificates of insurance, parking permits and building access coordination as part of standard service.

Free quotes are available by phone at (612) 268-5499, by email at hello@bluedollymoving.com, or through the quote form at [bluedollymoving.com](https://www.bluedollymoving.com). Booking and dispatch operate seven days a week.

About Blue Dolly Moving & Storage

Blue Dolly Moving is a Minneapolis-based moving and storage company serving the Minneapolis and St. Paul metro and communities throughout Minnesota. Founded in 2022, the company built

its model around guaranteed all-inclusive pricing that is locked in before move day, with no hourly billing and no surprise charges, and maintains a 4.9 star average across major review platforms. The company is licensed and insured, operating under USDOT 3928585, MnDOT 384454 and MC 1521934, and offers residential, apartment, commercial, long distance, senior, specialty and storage services across the Twin Cities.

Blue Dolly Moving & Storage
310 4th Ave S, Suite 5010, Minneapolis, MN 55415
(612) 268-5499

Brian Waddick
Blue Dolly Moving & Storage
+1 (612) 268-5499

[email us here](#)

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