

Recycling a Whole House

November 23, 2018

Picture this: You are living comfortably in your home. The house is a little dated, perhaps, and you are ready for something new to better fit your family and lifestyle. Your neighbourhood is amazing though – you really don't want to move away. The best option for you would be to tear down your current house and build a new home on your current lot, right?

Ultimate agrees! But we have one minor suggestion: We think you should recycle your home.

It's still a great house. Just because it isn't the right house for you, doesn't mean that a different family wouldn't love it as much as you did for all those years.



This is exactly the case for one of our recent projects. When our president, Danny, went to a home on a typical consultation for a full renovation, he was very impressed with the home's overall condition.

That same day, he called a local house moving company to ask if it was even possible to move such a big house. For reference, this house is over 3000 square feet, and two-

storeys tall. Plus, it had a garage. All they did was check it out on Google Maps, and they didn't even hesitate. They were on board!

It wasn't hard to sell the idea to the homeowners either. It saved them money in many places, including the demolition cost and the landfill fees. We also assume there was an emotional aspect. Even if you know the final product is going to be amazing, watching your home go to a new family is probably easier than watching your home be demolished.



The next step was moving the house, and it was a very interesting project with which to be involved. There were months of planning, but you're probably more interested in hearing about how you actually move a house, and less about the paperwork. The first step was to lift the whole house off the foundation. To do so, multiple hydraulic lifts were placed in the basement. They simultaneously rose to slowly detach the upper levels of the house from the foundation. Amazingly, these machines only had 8 horsepower. It was all about patience and technique – not brute strength.

Next, the house was pulled across some fortified beams connecting the original location to the semi-truck that would chauffeur the house on its journey. Once the house was in place, extra care was taken to make sure it was extremely secure. That house wasn't coming off that truck until it made it to its destination.

And then we were off! It took some skilled driving to even get off the lot, let alone from Calgary to Sundre, Alberta. Corners were taken slowly and cautiously, but once our driver hit the highway, he was safe to go over 80 km/hour. Imagine seeing a two-storey house coming up in your rear-view mirror.

Before you wonder if we were the reason you were late for work that day – No! We did the heavy lifting (literally) in the bright light of the day, but the actual driving and moving of the house was in the dead of the night. We wanted to ensure as little traffic as possible.

And if you were near us at the time, you would know. Besides carrying a huge house, we had a whole convoy. There was a police escort, the moving team, and various city workers. For example, there was a team whose job was to move the power lines that went over the highway. The house would stop, the power lines would be pulled up or temporarily take down so the house could go past (followed by another truck with the garage), and then we would continue our journey until we had to pause again.



In today's world, we are always trying to be better - better to our clients, better to the environment, and better as a business. One of the things that can set businesses apart from the rest is the creativity put behind every solution and decision. We are particularly proud of this solution. Two families will be happy with their new homes, and we found a way to do it with very little waste. While not every project can go this way, we hope to see more 'recycling' opportunities like this in the future.



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