

Moving advice from the specialists

By **BILL HAYDEN**
Staff reporter

Your next move probably won't be as complicated as what the Delaware Art Museum is doing, but you may have some pictures or sculptures you cherish that need to be packed safely.

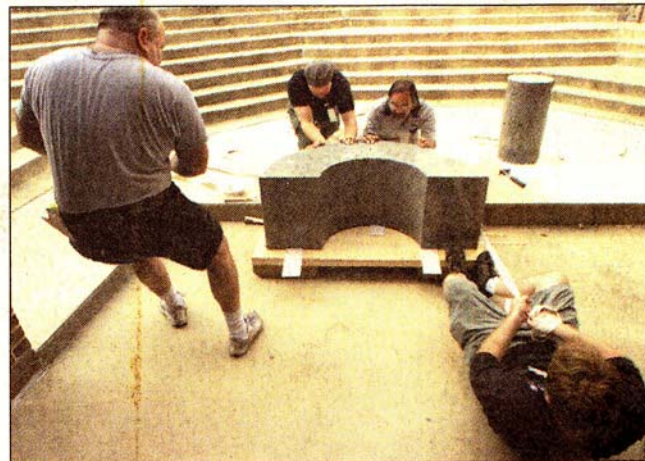
Even without using his company's special equipment, you can make sure your treasures get from here to there without being damaged, says Scott Pittman, Artex's packing expert.

"The key," he says, "is to remain in control of how the objects are packed and handled."

For local moves, that usually means packing and moving the art yourself. Pittman recommends renting a small van or minivan to transport it in if there are more than just a few pieces.

Pictures are the easiest. Wrap each one in plastic bubble wrap. If there is glass in the frame, use tape criss-crossed several times over the glass.

See **EXPERTS** — D2



From left: Bob Ikena, Patrick Burke, special projects manager Ben Gage and Scott Patti use muscle and strips of plastic to slide a granite sculpture by Scott Burton.

Experts: Protect it, secure it, stabilize it – and don't try anything fancy

FROM PAGE D1

"It won't keep the glass from breaking, but it will keep any broken glass from damaging the picture," he says. "Propping pictures on their sides when moving them is the best way to avoid broken glass."

If a picture's surface or frame is delicate, Pittman suggests surrounding it with a cardboard shadowbox before putting it in bubble wrap.

Place the picture face up in the center of a piece of cardboard that is about four inches

wider and longer than the picture.

Cut the cardboard at the corners so it can be folded up into a two-inch-wide rim around the picture. Tape the corners tightly so the picture can't move. Then tie several lengths of cloth tape around the shadowbox to keep the picture in place.

Boxing is also the best way to move small sculpture and porcelain figures, Pittman says.

"It's important they can't move around in their containers

so they don't get damaged," he says.

Pittman suggests getting sturdy boxes, such as those used by professional movers for china and books.

For heavy objects, cut a piece of plywood to fit snugly in the bottom of the box. Screw it through the cardboard to some two-by-fours under the box to provide strength.

Then, stabilize the object inside the box by securing it with cloth straps fastened into the plywood with small velour pads

to cushion where the straps touch it."

This method is less messy and more satisfactory than using Styrofoam peanuts, he says. Instead, bubble wrap or foam wrap can be put inside the box between the object and box walls to protect it.

For top-heavy items, he suggests cutting sheets of Styrofoam to fit inside the box and then cutting out openings so they fit around the object and hold it in place away from the box walls.

Ideally, use a box a little taller than the object in it. "If it is two inches higher," Pittman says, "you can put a two-inch-thick foam sheet on top of the object before closing the box."

Everything is designed to keep those items from moving in their boxes.

"The best designs are always the simplest," he says. "Don't try to get too fancy about the packing."

For long-distance moves, where transporting the art yourself isn't practical, Pittman says

you should be on hand to see that the pieces are packed properly and where and how they are placed in the moving van.

Even here, he feels, you should properly pack whatever you can yourself before the movers show up.

"Also make a detailed condition report on the art items before the van pulls away," Pittman says. "It saves a lot of dispute if something does arrive damaged."

►Reach Bill Hayden at 324-2887 or bhayden@delawareonline.com.