



## The Ultimate Moving Checklist

### 8 Weeks Before the Move

#### Services and Logistics

- Schedule cancellations for utilities and services.
  - Water
  - Sewer
  - Internet
  - Electricity
  - Gas
  - Waste Management
  - Services (lawn maintenance, house cleaners, etc.)
- Contact your insurance provider.
  - Update them on your move date, and discuss coverage change logistics
  - Get quotes for your new homeowners or renters policy
- Schedule cancellations for local memberships.
  - Gyms
  - Spa services
  - Car washes
- Send a written notice to your landlord if you are renting.
- Set a moving budget that includes moving-related services, any new furnishings you'll need, paying deposits, and covering transportation costs.
- Learn what you can and can't transport in a moving truck (generally, perishable items and dangerous chemicals) and plan accordingly.
- Schedule shipping your car, if needed.

#### Packing and Prep

- Start decluttering, donating, or selling items you won't take.
- Create a packing plan as you declutter.
- Collect packing supplies, including boxes, tape, and protective materials like bubble wrap.
- Create a moving binder to include your moving checklist, estimates, and receipts.

### **Moving Coordination**

- Get quotes for moving services and hire a company if needed.
- Decide if you want moving insurance and buy it, if so.
- Set up short-term housing and storage, if needed.
- Start searching for new health care providers, dentists, hair or nail salons, etc.
- If moving with kids.
  - Begin preparing them so they have time to process.
  - Start planning the school and medical record transfer process

### **What to Pack**

- Items held in long-term storage (ex. Holiday decorations, seasonal cookware, bulk pantry goods, backup kitchen appliances).
- Sentimental items (ex. Family recipe books, heirloom dishes, handmade table linens).
- Unused furniture (ex. Bar stools, spare kitchen chairs, old dining sets).
- Tools or gardening equipment you won't need.
- Extra brooms, watering cans, compost bins, outdoor storage racks.

## 6 Weeks Before the Move

### **What to Do 6 Weeks Before the Move**

- Request time off from work to move.
- Provide notice to your HOA, if applicable.
- Organize all legal, medical, and financial records for packing.
- Plan for items that require alternative arrangements, like pianos, pool tables, and other big items.
- Schedule walk-throughs of your new and old homes.
- Create a moving-out checklist with all the maintenance and cleaning tasks you need to do.
- Book flights, hotels, and rental cars if your move is long-distance.
- Schedule any closing home maintenance.
- Schedule home services for your new home.
- Start the change-of-address process, including:
  - USPS
  - DOL/DMV
  - IRS
  - Social Security
  - Voter Registration
  - Banks and financial services providers (credit card companies, financial advisors, etc.)

- Insurance companies
- Medical providers
- Schools
- Employer
- Utility companies
- Subscription services (meal delivery, magazines, etc.)
- Memberships (car washes, gyms, etc.)
- Payment services (shopping sites, Apple Pay, etc.)
- Personal contacts

#### **What to Pack 6 Weeks Before the Move**

- Nonessentials (items you haven't used in months).
- Holiday and seasonal decor.
- Garage and basement items (tools, outdoor gear, car accessories, etc.).
- Storage closets (old electronics, extra supplies, extra linens, etc.).
- Guest room (spare bedding, infrequently used furniture, etc.).

### 4 Weeks Before the Move

#### **What to Do 4 Weeks Before the Move**

- Plan to use up perishable foods.
- Start planning your new home's setup.
- Plan babyproofing if it's necessary.
- Figure out if you need a parking permit for the moving truck or storage pod (most common in urban centers and high-density areas).

#### **What to Pack 4 Weeks Before the Move**

- Low-use bedroom items (ex. spare bedding).
- Out-of-season clothing.
- Low-use decor.
- Fragile items (ex. Fine china, porcelain, mirrors).
- Low-use electronics.
- Valuables (heirlooms, keepsakes, instruments).

### 2 Weeks Before the Move

#### **What to Do 2 Weeks Before the Move**

- Figure out your final trash and recycling pickup.
- Plan what you're doing with pets and children on moving day.
- Back up essential data from your phone and computer.
- Empty your gym locker, safe deposit box, or other storage units.
- Set up mail forwarding with USPS.

- If the tech setup is complex, take photos. This will allow you to replicate it in your new place.

### **What to Pack 2 Weeks Before the Move**

- Most remaining furniture.
- Books, art and decor.
- Linens that aren't actively being used.
- Gym equipment.

## 1 Week Before the Move

### **What to Do 1 Week Before the Move**

- Confirm your move with your hired company. Double-check the date and time to avoid any surprises.
- Tell the neighbors if they don't already know.
- Confirm utilities and internet at your new address.
- Deep-clean everything (or hire a cleaner).
- Refill prescriptions.
- Return anything borrowed from libraries or local friends and family.

### **What to Pack 1 Week Before the Move**

- Any nonessential kids' items.
- Arts, crafts, and hobby supplies.
- Laundry room supplies.
- All nonessential clothing and accessories.
- Home office setup.

## The Days Before the Move

### **What to Do Days Before the Move**

- Remind your neighbors, especially if you'll be blocking the road or their driveway with the moving truck.
- Drain the gas out of the garage equipment.
- Empty appliances like your dishwasher, washer, and dryer.
- Gather any spare keys from neighbors or friends.
- Pack your moving day essentials list.
- Get cash for tips to save the trip to the ATM on moving day.
- Defrost your freezer if your landlord requires it.
- Deep-clean your washer and oven.
- Check the forecast and plan for the weather. If it's rainy, get ready to take extra precautions.

### **What to Pack Days Before the Move**

- Dishes, silverware, countertop appliances, cookware, and food.
- Bathrooms.
- Any remaining decor (rugs, plants, etc.).
- Jewelry.
- Important documents.
- Any remaining electronics (computers, TVs, game consoles).

## The Day of the Move

### **What to Do the Day of the Move**

- Keep snacks and drinks on hand for yourself and any helpers
- Oversee loading and answer questions
- Stay present and communicative until the truck/transportation is ready to go.
- Confirm the drop-off address and contact information with the movers
- Sign the bill of lading
- Do a final check of the house
  - Close and lock all windows
  - Shut off the lights
  - Lock the doors
  - Leave keys (house, shed, mailbox, etc.)
- Do a walk-through with your landlord and return the keys. Take photos and/or a video recording to avoid surprises later
- Tip your movers

### **What to Pack the Day of the Move**

- Last-minute personal items, like clothes, towels, toothbrush, toothpaste, toilet paper, soap, toiletries, medications
- Remaining sheets, pillows, blankets
- Coffee maker and the remaining dishes
- Cleaning supplies
- Remaining electronics (phone chargers, laptops, tablets, etc.)

## After the Move

### **What to Do After the Move**

- If you just bought your house, change the locks. Renters usually can't change their locks per the lease, but you can request this from your landlord.
- Order or pick up groceries.
- Replace all batteries in smoke and CO2 detectors.
- Review your home inventory.
- Unpack in the opposite order you packed in, prioritizing frequently used items.

- Clear out your moving boxes. You can sell or give them away if they're still in good condition.
- Check in with utilities if any didn't activate as scheduled.
- Meet your neighbors.
- Update your driver's license or state ID, voter registration, and car registration.
- Check in with your previous landlord about your security deposit.
- Leave reviews for any services you used for your move, like movers or cleaners.