



Moving Checklist

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CONSUMER AFFAIRS

TWO MONTHS BEFORE YOUR MOVE

- Finalize lease or new home contract
- Declutter your life
- Research moving companies
- Make a plan for moving valuables
- Start collecting packing materials

ONE MONTH BEFORE YOUR MOVE

- Line up health care professionals
- Make a packing plan and start packing
- Gather and secure important documents
- Set utility shut off dates
- Hire your moving company
- Make travel plans to arrive at the new home before your movers
- Determine what you'll do for pets and plants
- See if your bank has a branch in your new area

TWO WEEKS BEFORE YOUR MOVE

- Finish packing up your house
- Touch base with the moving company
- Make sure your car is road ready
- Meal plan to clean out the fridge and pantry
- Fill out a change of address form
- Notify governmental agencies of your move
- Cancel or update accounts and memberships

ONE WEEK BEFORE YOUR MOVE

- Clean out large appliance, drain gas tanks
- Do a final deep clean
- Refill prescriptions

THE DAY BEFORE YOUR MOVE

- Defrost the freezer and unplug the fridge
- Pack your clothes and essentials
- Prep your home for movers
- Have moving payment & cash tips ready

THE DAY OF YOUR MOVE

- Confirm your moving truck's USDOT number
- Do a final walkthrough after everything is out

MOVING INTO YOUR NEW HOME

- Check locks and smoke detectors
- Locate water shutoff valve and fuse box
- Transfer or set up cable and internet
- Get a new driver's license and register your vehicle(s)



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TWO MONTHS BEFORE YOUR MOVE

Finalize lease or new home contract

Check with your real estate agent or landlord to secure your new home and make sure it will be ready when you get there.

Declutter your life

Discard or donate anything you wouldn't pay to move (whether you're hiring a moving company or not).

Research moving companies

Start getting quotes/estimates from moving companies (see our [Moving Companies guide](#) for ideas). Make sure your quotes are non-binding and based on an onsite assessment of your home and possessions. Take photos of each estimate or have them emailed to you so you can refer back to them.

Make a plan for moving valuables

Identify any items of particular importance to you and make a plan for how they should get to your new home safely. Consider insuring large items or especially expensive items like antiques or artwork.

Start collecting packing materials

Start stockpiling boxes, tape and cushioning materials, like newspaper.

ONE MONTH BEFORE YOUR MOVE

Line up health care professionals

See if your doctor, dentist, veterinarian, etc. can give you referrals for colleagues near your new home. Compile your family and pet records so you can deliver them at your first appointments.

Make a packing plan and start packing

Set aside the necessities you'll need, make an inventory of valuable items that won't require special arrangements and work your way through your house room by room. For more ideas, see our tips for [how to pack for a move](#).

Gather and secure important documents

Store birth certificates, licenses, vehicle titles, insurance policies, marital documents, passports and Social Security cards in a container like a document safe so they don't get lost or damaged.

Set utility shut off dates

Contact your gas, electric, water and waste management providers no later than a month ahead of your move to set a shut off date. Identify utility companies for your new home and set activation dates.

Hire your moving company

Once you've found a company you feel comfortable with, sign the contract. Your moving truck's USDOT number should be listed somewhere in the contract; save it and refer back to it on moving day to verify your movers' ID.

ONE MONTH BEFORE YOUR MOVE (continued)

Make travel plans to arrive at the new home before your movers

If you're moving long distance, make sure you get to your destination before the movers—if necessary, make hotel arrangements, and arrive a day or two early.

Determine what you'll do for pets and plants

Most moving companies won't move plants or pets. Plan how you'll keep them safely out of the way and transport them on moving day.

See if your bank has a branch in your new area

If not, you'll want to take the opportunity to find a new bank and set up your account there.

TWO WEEKS BEFORE YOUR MOVE

Finish packing up your house

At this point, you'll want your house to be mostly packed. You can keep essential personal items (a few changes of clothes, toiletries, towels, medication) out until the last couple days and pack these in open boxes. Consider getting disposable plates, silverware and cups so you can pack your kitchen.

Touch base with the moving company

Reconfirm moving and arrival dates with your moving company, let them know if anything has changed since your contract was finalized.

Make sure your car is road ready

Take your vehicle(s) in for a tune up, oil change, etc. to ensure they don't break down mid-move. If you have multiple vehicles and not enough drivers, consider hiring an auto transporter (see our [buyers guide](#) for more).

Meal plan to clean out the fridge and pantry

Try to eat as many of your perishables as possible, and make arrangements to donate what you can't eat to a local food bank or friends.

Fill out a change of address form

This is a simple but very important step to ensure you don't lose any important mail. You can find forms at your local post office or complete and [submit one online](#).

Notify governmental agencies of your move

Submit form [8822](#) to the Internal Revenue Service, notifying them of your change of residence, and reach out to the [Office of Veteran Affairs](#) and [Social Security](#) if you receive benefits from either.

Cancel or update accounts and memberships

Cancel your accounts or update your address with your bank, insurance providers, credit card company, subscription services, gym membership, lawn care service or cleaning crew.

ONE WEEK BEFORE YOUR MOVE

Clean out large appliances, drain gas tanks

Detach the propane tank from your grill (most moving companies won't carry them), and empty gasoline from your lawn mower and other gas-powered equipment.

Do a final deep clean

Dust and wipe down your home's nooks and crannies like cabinets, shelves, your oven, attic, windows and bathrooms.

Refill prescriptions

Make sure you have a large enough supply of prescription medications to last you through the move with time to spare after you arrive.

THE DAY BEFORE YOUR MOVE

Defrost the freezer and unplug the fridge

Empty and defrost your freezer and fridge so they don't leak when unplugged. Disinfect the interior to prevent mildew.

Pack your clothes and essentials

Pack up the last of your clothes and personal items you won't need to carry with you, and think of what you do carry on the road as a "survival kit."

Prep your home for movers

Clear paths, protect any newly-cleaned carpet with plastic and install door frame protectors if you want.

Have moving payment & cash tips ready

Review your moving contract to see when you need to pay for the service in full (some companies wait until after the move). Have cash tips ready for each mover—\$20 to \$40 per mover is standard.

THE DAY OF YOUR MOVE

Confirm your moving truck's USDOT number

Make sure the USDOT or vehicle number on the truck that arrives matches the one in your moving contract.

Do a final walkthrough after everything is out

Check for carpet stains or moving damage, and be sure nothing is left behind.

MOVING INTO YOUR NEW HOME

Check locks and smoke detectors

Do a walkthrough of your new home to make sure all doors lock properly and smoke detectors all work. If you own your new home, get the locks changed ASAP.

Locate water shutoff valve and fuse box

Find your home's fuse box and water shutoff valve. Make sure they're clearly labeled and easy to use in the event of an emergency.

Transfer or set up cable and internet

Find the providers in your area and reach out to get your wifi and cable up and running.

Get a new driver's license and register your vehicle(s)

If you're in a new state, update your driver's license and register your vehicle.