



Simplifying
your move

Government

- U.S. Postal Service
- Voter Registration
- DMV

Utilities

- Gas and electric companies
- City utility company
- Internet and cable companies

Financial services

- Banks
- Credit card companies
- Loan companies

Miscellaneous

- Doctors, dentists, and pharmacies
- Veterinarian (remember to change the address on your pet's ID tag too!)
- Insurance companies
- Magazine and newspaper subscriptions
- Any other home delivery services

Making the move into a new home can be one of the most exciting times of your life. Moving signals new beginnings, new opportunities, and new adventures. However, moving can also be one of the most stressful times! It can be overwhelming to keep track of everything you need to accomplish before, during, and after your move. This moving guide will help you stay on track throughout the entire process, and help make it as stress-free as possible.

Change of address notification checklist

Of course people will want to know you're moving, but in some cases they may need to know, too! To the left is a handy checklist of people you should inform that you're moving to make sure you're receiving everything you need.

Moving timeline: 2 months before

Moving tip:

In addition to labeling boxes with their contents, label what rooms they'll be going in. Color coding rooms and their respective boxes can help too.

- Create a moving binder** — This will make it easy to keep all of your essential documents in one place on moving day.
- Make reservations** — Reserve and schedule your moving truck and any assistance you'll need. Once you receive confirmations from them, add the information to your binder.
- Eliminate excess** — Start using up items that you won't be moving with you, like frozen foods.
- Stop purchasing in bulk** — The more you buy, the more you will have to worry about transporting.
- Get rid of clutter** — Schedule a yard sale or charity donation to get rid of unused or unnecessary items. Larger or more valuable items can also be sold online.
- Start packing** — Starting with out of season clothes, pack up items that you won't need before the move. Label each box with the room that it will be going in, and make note of the contents inside the box.
- Complete any necessary repairs** — If you're selling a home, small improvements such as fresh paint and new fixtures can increase your appeal to buyers. If you're renting a home, make sure you've done everything required in your lease to get your deposit back, which can include cleaning carpets and filling holes.

Moving timeline: 1 month before

- Notify about your change of address** — Start notifying the necessary people and agencies of your new address.
- Take care of services** — If you're moving in the same city, call to transfer services like utilities and electric. If you're moving to a new city or state, call your current providers to set up a cancellation date for services. Call providers in your new city to find out the proper procedure for setting up services there. Add any paper work you receive to your moving binder.
- Arrange storage** — If you plan on needing a storage unit near your new house, call a month ahead to get a start date scheduled and make the necessary payments.
- Make school arrangements** — If you have school-age children, make sure you've contacted their new school to find out what documents and records you'll need to have to get them enrolled.

Moving timeline: 2 weeks before

- Confirm EVERYTHING** — Double check with the utilities companies that your services will be turned on or transferred as close to moving day as possible. Confirm the time and place that the moving truck needs to be picked up, or what time the movers will be coming if you are using any.
- Transfer the necessities** — Prescriptions and bank services are two things you may need right after the move. It's best to give them a few weeks notice to make sure you're able to get what you need as soon as possible.
- Make arrangements for children and pets** — If you have young children or pets, moving day will go much smoother if they have somewhere to go for the day. Make arrangements for them to stay with friends or family.

Moving timeline: 2 days before

- Finish cleaning** — Since most of your things will (hopefully) be packed, you can finally deep clean your house from the baseboards to the ceiling fans.
- Do laundry** — The last thing you'll want to do after moving is wash a load of laundry. Try and make sure everything that gets packed is clean.
- Pack your first night boxes** — Pack up some essentials you'll need on moving day. I've made a few suggestions for what to pack on the following page.
- Plan for payment** — Even though you may already have paid for the moving company, make sure you have cash available to tip the movers. 10 - 15% is appreciated, and a refreshment never hurts.
- Prep the kitchen** — Defrost the freezer. Clean the oven. Empty the fridge and clean it. If they are staying in your home, the new residents will appreciate it.

Moving timeline: Moving day!

- Eat breakfast** — Even if you have to get up early, make sure and have a good breakfast before you start the moving process. It may not seem like a big deal, but everyone is more pleasant if they aren't hungry!
- Double-check the inventory list** — Run through the inventory list that movers have made to ensure that everything is included. Add any paperwork they give you to your moving binder.
- Do a final sweep of the house** — Follow up behind the movers to make sure nothing gets left behind. Double check the inside and outside of the house to make sure everything is clean and in good condition
- Don't worry** — If you feel a little sad walking through your empty home, that's okay! Moving is a big life change, and getting adjusted can be hard. Remember what made you want to move in the first place, and get excited for all the new adventures and opportunities you'll have in your new home.

Your first night home

You did it! You survived your move, and now you're ready to enjoy your new home. Get a good night's sleep; you've got lots of unpacking to do in the morning!

On your first night in your new home, you'll be so exhausted from the move that the last thing you'll want to do is dig around in boxes for your essentials. It's best to pack and label a few boxes or bags to open immediately when you get moved in.

Personal items:

- Toilet paper
- Prescriptions and medicine
- Chargers for your electronics
- Glasses and contact lenses
- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Shower supplies (towels, shampoo, etc.)

Home products:

- Basic cleaning supplies
 - Plates and utensils for your first meal
 - A set of sheets
 - Shower curtain
 - Hammer, nails, screwdriver, and scissors
- Take pictures — You'll probably paint, decorate, and remodel while you live in your new house, so take lots of pictures of what it looks like before you make it "yours".
 - Explore your home — Try out all the sinks, check inside all the cabinets and closets, and really get a feel for your house. There are things you may have missed while touring it before.