The Ultimate Moving Checklist

Getting Organized

Getting started

☐  Bookmark this page or print your checklist

☐  Block time in your calendar to prepare for the move

☐  Coordinate moving/closing dates to the best of your ability

Setting a budget  (ideally 10 weeks before the move)

☐  Set a realistic moving budget

☐  Track your expenses
Moving out of the home or apartment you've been renting  
(ideally 10 weeks before the move)

☐  📝 Review your lease agreement

☐  📞 Notify your current landlord

Renting your new home or apartment  
(ideally 10 weeks before the move)

☐  📦 Confirm with your new landlord when your rental will be ready

Preparing to move  
(ideally 8 weeks before the move)

☐  📦 Contact insurance agents for both homes

☐  📦 Let in-person service providers know you’re moving

☐  📅 Schedule time off work and notify your employer of an upcoming change of address

☐  📧 Complete a change of address form and determine whether you need the USPS premium forwarding service

☐  💌 Change Social Security and Medicare mailing addresses

☐  🕰️ Schedule a pest inspection

Planning The Move

Hiring a moving company  
(ideally 8 weeks before the move)
Research reputable moving companies

Get estimates from professional movers

Pick your movers and sign a contract

Moving DIY-style (ideally 8 weeks before the move)

Make sure your helpers are available

Determine the right size truck rental

Understand your insurance options

Figure out whether you need to rent additional equipment

Book a moving truck rental

Check state transportation requirements

Shipping a vehicle (ideally 8 weeks before the move)

Research car shipping companies

Ask for proof of insurance

Check your own auto insurance policy

Book a car shipping company

Have an extra set of keys on hand
Moving with children  (ideally 8 weeks before the move)

☐ Discuss the move with your kids

☐ Research childcare and schools in your new community

☐ Register for school

☐ Finalize moving day childcare

Moving with pets  (ideally 6 weeks before the move)

☐ Research pet transportation

☐ Take your pet to the vet

☐ Request copies of vet records and get any necessary medications

☐ Research a new vet

☐ Get new ID tags and update the address on your microchip (if applicable)

☐ Finalize pet arrangements

Moving to a new community  (ideally 6 weeks before the move)

☐ Research your new community

☐ Update your memberships to community organizations, subscription services, gyms and clubs
Find a new doctor, dentist and pharmacy

Forward medical records and prescriptions

Make a point to say goodbye

**Storing items** *(ideally 6 weeks before the move)*

- Figure out what you need to store and how much space you need
- Research reputable self storage companies
- Consider purchasing insurance

**Getting ready to travel** *(ideally 6 weeks before the move)*

- Make travel arrangements
- Take your vehicles in for a tune-up

**Decluttering**

**Decluttering your home** *(ideally 6 weeks before the move)*

- Dispose of hazardous household items like old paint and unused cleaning products
- Return anything you borrowed from neighbors
- Start eating everything!
Clear out storage spaces

Delete unnecessary computer files, and then make sure everything is backed up to a cloud or external hard drive

Sort all your clothing, toys, books, games, and all other houseware items

Sell the items you don't need

Take donation items to a donation center

**Packing**

**Preparing to pack** (ideally 4 weeks before the move)

- Pick up moving boxes
- Print off moving box labels
- Organize important documents and valuables
- Inventory all your valuables
- Start a moving box inventory
- Take photos of all electronics before unplugging them
- Measure doorways and large furniture

**Starting to pack** (ideally 4 weeks before the move)
Prepare your furniture for the move

Purchase travel essentials

Start packing items that you aren’t using

Update your moving box inventory based on the boxes you’ve packed so far

Pack your first week’s essentials

Don’t forget to take breaks!

Moving with children (ideally 4 weeks before the move)

Pack essentials for your kids?

Moving with pets (ideally 4 weeks before the move)

Pack essentials for your pets

Storing items (ideally 2 weeks before the move)

Book a storage unit

Keep boxes and items that are going into storage separated

Getting Ready For The Move

Moving DIY-style (ideally 2 weeks before the move)
Reconfirm moving plans with your helpers

**Moving with children** (ideally 2 weeks before the move)

Create moving day activities

**Shipping a vehicle** (ideally 2 weeks before the move)

Start using up the gas in your car

Remove items from your vehicle

Confirm pickup and drop-off locations

Take photos of your car to document its condition

**Finishing up odds and ends** (ideally 1 week before the move)

Take out trash and recycling for the final time

Mow the lawn and clean the gutters

Remove oil and gas from lawnmowers and snowblowers

Clean your space

Clean out the fridge

Schedule utilities to be shut off and turned on
Moving out of the home or apartment you've been renting
(ideally 1 week before the move)

☐  🛠️ Inspect your rental and fix damages

☐  💰 Ensure all bills are paid in full

Renting your new home or apartment (ideally 1 week before the move)

☐  📞 Inspect your new rental with the landlord

☐  📝 Create a list of items to buy for the new place (but don’t buy them yet)

Preparing for the move (ideally 1 week before the move)

☐  🍽️ Plan meals for the final week

☐  🎧 Make a moving day playlist to enjoy while moving and unpacking

☐  📂 Complete last-minute packing

☐  ☁️ Keep an eye on the weather

☐  📱 Make sure your phone is charged

☐  🍌 Pack snacks and a cooler

Storing items (ideally 1 week before the move)

☐  ⛔️ Pick up a lock / the keys to your storage space
Move anything that you need to store into your storage unit

Managing movers (ideally 1 week before the move)

Have cash on hand

Moving Day

Managing movers (ideally on the actual moving day)

Keep the movers on task

Pay the movers

Moving DIY-style (ideally on the actual moving day)

Keep helpers hydrated and fed

Moving with pets (ideally on the actual moving day)

Give your pet lots to drink

Feed your pet early

Wrapping things up (ideally on the actual moving day)

Double-check the house during the final walk-through

Hand over the keys
Keep all your moving receipts

Moving out of the home or apartment you've been renting
(ideally on the actual moving day)

Complete your final rental inspection with your landlord

Settling In

Get the lay of the land (ideally in the first few weeks after moving in)

Make sure you have access to all facilities

Setting up your new home (ideally in the first few weeks after moving in)

Decide how you want to organize your home before you unpack

Unpack

Pop some bubbly! Moving is not easy work

Purchase items for your new home

Taking care of household tasks (ideally in the first few weeks after moving in)

Test smoke alarms

Change the locks ASAP

Figure out waste pickup details
Prepare a list of emergency service technicians and preferred providers

Moving with pets  (ideally in the first few weeks after moving in)

- Register your pet

Updating your address  (ideally in the first few weeks after moving in)

- Register to vote at your new address
- Update your mailing address (if you haven't already)
- Register your car and change the address on your license

Settling into your new home  (ideally in the first few weeks after moving in)

- Enjoy your new home
- Meet the neighbors
- Get involved in your community