

Your Complete Moving Checklist

Part One: Planning Ahead

Rome wasn't built in a day and moving doesn't happen in a week.

Here are the things you'll want to start thinking about far in advance of your moving date.

Two Months Out

Set your budget.

Realistically budget out estimated costs (don't forget to include little things like tips and gas).

Schedule movers.

Whether you're using professionals, mom and dad, or the neighbor's teenager you're paying with pizza, make sure everybody is on the same page with timeline and expectations. Also, if you use professional movers, do your due diligence and read reviews and check their Better Business Bureau rating. If in doubt, ask your friends for a referral.

Get insured.

Research if you want moving insurance and, if so, figure out what you need covered. It may give you a peace of mind.

Take care of your kids.

Are your kids changing schools when you move? You'll need their transcripts in order to get them enrolled.

Reserve a storage unit.

Do you have enough space in your new home for all your stuff? If not, arrange to have a storage unit ready for all your nonessentials or seasonal items.

Do you live in a building?

Chances are, you may need to reserve the elevator (and apologize to your neighbors for making them wait an extra two minutes for the remaining functional ones). Don't forget to check with your management company for any other moving-out requirements.

Remember Google Drive is your friend.

Document all your expenses, processes, and whatever else your heart desires. Keep track of things like contracts, receipts, and insurance in case you need them later.

One Month Out

- Take pictures.**

Before you start putting everything in boxes, take pictures of your old place—they're good for setting things up on the other end and for sentimentality.
- Assemble your packing supplies.**

Order (or scavenge for) boxes, tape, bubble wrap, and the like. Pro tips: Ask your local grocery store for any extra boxes they might have laying around and remember that towels, sheets, and T-shirts can make excellent packing material. Why pack a box full of blankets when those blankets can be cushioning your crystal?
- Purge, purge, purge.**

Nobody likes a hoarder. Give stuff away, donate it, or sell it on Ebay. Whatever it takes, get rid of the stuff you haven't seen since the last time you moved. Fun fact: some organizations like Salvation Army will even come pick up your donations.
- Think about your food.**

Make a week or so worth of freezer-friendly meals so you can eat even after your kitchen has been packed, lest you get on a first-name basis with the Taco Bell cashier during your packing delirium.
- Check your car.**

Are you driving to your new home? Make sure your car is in tip-top shape! No one wants to realize they need an oil change before they leave town.

Two Weeks Out

- Box it up.**

It's time. Leave your essentials for last, but start stashing all your stuff. By packing away a little every day, you can avoid feeling overwhelmed.
- Label everything.**

You may not realize how essential this is, but do it. It lets movers know where to stack what and helps you prioritize the unpacking process.
- Make a list.**

While you are labeling, make a thorough list. Know what valuables you have and where they are *juuuust* in case anything funky happens.
- Break out the measuring tape.**

Nothing is worse than trying to squeeze your sectional through your doorway only to realize it doesn't fit. Check all entryways and stairwells and formulate a game plan for those hard-to-move pieces.
- Find your pets a temporary home.**

While pets are the cutest, they're not the most helpful on moving day. Arrange for them to stay somewhere else so they aren't underfoot as the doors are left open and people shoulder heavy, awkward furniture.
- Conduct last-minute research.**

Do a little spying on your new neighborhood with Google Maps and Yelp. In a pinch, you'll want to know where to grab a missing screwdriver (or a drink after all is said and done).

Part Two: The Moment of Truth

This is what you've trained for. It isn't easy, but you've laid the groundwork so make like Nike and #justdoit.

One Week Out

- Change your address.**
Submit your change of address to the US Postal Service and all other relevant parties (leave time for this; chances are, there's a lot of them). This also means forwarding all your magazine subscriptions, so you can keep getting those New Yorker issues you'll definitely read one of these days.
- Protect your identity.**
Make sure all personal documents are secured and accounted for (passport, Social Security card, the works).
- Shut them down.**
Cancel all those utility bills you love paying—gas, water, electric, etc. But don't get cocky; this freedom is short-lived and you'll have to set these up again in your new place. If you're moving nearby, you can probably just transfer them over to your new address.
- Keep track of your cords.**
As you're packing, keep all cords and remotes either attached to the appropriate electronic device or labeled in a Ziploc bag, especially for those who are overly dependent on their Google Home.
- Unplug your fridge.**
Don't forget to give your refrigerator time to reach a normal temperature before you load it (at least 24 hours)—you don't want to find unwanted moisture sloshing around when you unpack.
- Set your moving day playlist.**
Seriously consider what will be on your moving day playlist. Add accordingly.
- Hit the ATM.**
Make sure you have plenty of cash on hand to tip the movers (and that random guy on the street who gets stuck holding the door open for you). Twenty-forty dollars per movers will usually do the trick for a full day's work.
- Make sure everything has a box.**
Now is the time to make sure you have a place and a plan for every single one of your belongings. Leave no item unaccounted for.

Day Of

- Start with coffee.**
Unless that's not your thing—strong tea, then?
- Wake up early and have breakfast.**
You should be doing this everyday, by the way.
- Pack your pillow.**
What did you sleep on last night? Time to put all those essentials like bedding, toothbrushes, and such into a suitcase.

Day Of (continued)

Load the truck.

Time for a giant game of Tetris. This is fairly straightforward (but we can pretty much promise you'll still spat with your significant other about proper loading techniques): Put the heavy and/or durable stuff on the bottom and put the light and/or breakable stuff on top. Make sure everything is secure and the door is locked.

Say goodbye.

Moving is a big deal. Whether you sit on the floor and reflect, throw a party with your closest friends, or write your initials on the baseboards, celebrate the life lived in your old home

End with wine.

You deserve it.

Part Three: You've Made It!

Really this is just the time when you hang out in your new neighborhood.

You don't need us for this part—Congratulations! 🎉



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