

15 STEPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL MOVE



> PREPARING TO MOVE



Potential Moving Costs:

- Hiring movers
- Moving truck
- Storage unit
- Moving supplies
- Carpet shampoo and cleaning of prior residence
- Travel costs – gas, food, lodging, bus or plane tickets
- Bills due at your old or new home
- “Rainy day money” in case of accident or emergency

Supply Essentials:

- Boxes in various sizes
- Packing tape
- Box cutters
- Packing paper or bubble wrap
- Permanent marker
- Tool kit may also be necessary to take apart furniture

Step #1: Keep A Notebook Dedicated to the Move

Use a notebook for a moving journal to plan out and organize your move that can hold everything from to do lists to budget breakdowns and receipts.

Step #2: Calculate Your Moving Costs

Add up your total estimated moving costs to make a budget for the move. Whether you hire professional services or move on your own, expenses can quickly add up unless planned for properly.

Step #3: Hire Movers (or Recruit Friends and Family)

Hiring movers will save you a ton of stress and labor if you have it in your budget. Hire movers about a month in advance of your move. Call multiple moving companies to ensure you get the best price. Before reserving movers, read online reviews to make sure you’re hiring a reputable company. For a bit more money, you can hire packers as well.

Not planning on hiring movers? Make sure to ask friends and family to help you move a few weeks in advance to ensure they save the date. Don’t forget to thank your friends with pizza, beer or a gift certificate for a massage. If you need to rent a truck, make sure to reserve one at least two weeks in advance.

Step #4: Purchase Moving Supplies

Before you start packing, make sure you purchase the essentials.

Step #5: Organize and Store Your Seasonal Belongings

If you only use things once a year (or for a little while each year), it’s best to pack them away in storage where they aren’t taking up valuable space in your home. Group items by season/occasion and label each container so you can easily find what you are looking for when you need it.

Address Updates:

- Post office - forward your mail for at least two months
- Electricity, water, gas, cable, garbage, Internet, etc.
- Online shopping accounts (Amazon, ebay, etc)
- DMV
- Insurance company
- Bank
- Credit card company
- Family and friends
- Doctors, dentists, schools and daycare
- Don't forget to cancel or transfer your gym membership in person - they usually won't let you make changes over the phone.

□ Step #6: Change Your Address and Transfer Utilities

Moving involves a lot more than just packing. Before you begin packing, use your notebook to jot down all the essential utilities, organizations and people whom you may need to contact prior to moving.

□ Step #7: Eat Up Your Food Before Moving

Try to eat and drink your fridge and freezer dry before you move out. Transporting food is a very difficult task and can get messy...especially moving long distances. Consume all your meats, fruit and veggies as well as discard any almost empty jars, condiments and dressings that you do not need.

□ Step #8: Pack

Packing can seem overwhelming, but, if you start early, it will be a breeze. We recommend beginning your packing process at least two weeks in advance. Packing just one box a day will make those final pre-move days a breeze. Start with packing decorations and books, followed by clothes and kitchen supplies you won't need.

Packing Tips

- Use smaller boxes for heavier items, such as plates, kitchen appliances and books, so they're not too heavy to carry.
- Use bigger boxes for lighter items, such as clothes and bedding.
- When packing up boxes, place items such as books and non-essentials at the bottom, with more important items on top.
- To keep plates safer, stack vertically instead of laying them flat in the box.
- Label all boxes and large items per room to help you and your movers stay organized.
- Take pictures of electronics before taking them apart, so you know where to plug in all the different cords later.
- Make sure you are completely packed before your movers/friends show up to help.
- Put all packed boxes in one area to speed up the moving process, especially if your movers charge by the hour.
- Leave cleaning supplies out so you can clean your old place after moving out and clean your new place before moving in.
- Pack your essentials last so you can find them quickly and easily in the sea of boxes.

> MOVING DAY



□ Step #9: Secure a Babysitter or Petsitter

If you have a human child or a furry child, it is advisable to plan on having a babysitter or pet-sitter prepared in advance for the day of the move. Moving can be complicated and require you to juggle many tasks at the same time. Having a baby, young child or pet consuming your time and potentially getting in the way of movers is not the ideal situation. Plan out in advance to have the pet or child away for a few hours until you are free to watch them without worry.

Moving Day Kit:

- Basic toiletries
- Medications
- Change of clothes
- Eyeglasses or contacts
- ID and wallet
- Moving contracts
- Bills & important paperwork
- Phones, tablets & chargers
- A first aid kit
- Tools - for furniture assembly or repairs
- Keep toilet paper accessible (trust us on this one).

Cleaning Duties:

- Clean wall stains and scuffs
- Wash windows and mirrors
- Wipe down all cabinets and appliances
- Clean all sinks, toilets and showers
- Empty and defrost the refrigerator before cleaning the interior shelves and drawers
- Dust all surfaces
- Sweep, mop and vacuum
- Take out the trash

□ Step #10: Pack A Moving Kit

It is essential to prepare a small moving day kit with some key components to ensure you are not left with having to unpack ten boxes to find your toothbrush. These items will go with you in the car for uncomplicated retrieval.

□ Step #11: Clean

Consider hiring a professional cleaner if it's in your budget. Even if you're hiring someone, make sure to remove all belongings and trash from the apartment or house and remove any nails, hooks and screws from the walls. Fill in any holes with putty.

□ Step #12: Unpack What You Need First

Moving is exhausting, and you probably won't unpack all your boxes during the first day (or week). Prioritize your unpacking. Start by making your bed, so you can get some sleep after the long day of moving. You'll also want to unpack toiletries, towels and the clothes you picked out for the next few days. After unpacking the essentials, we recommend moving on to the kitchen, so you'll be able to cook over the next few days. Don't feel bad ordering take-out after your move. We're all too tired to cook after all that packing and unpacking! Plus, you'll be able to explore the restaurants in your new neighborhood.

> SETTLING IN



Moving can be hard work but, once you're settled into your new home, it's all worth it!

□ Step #13: Meet Your Neighbors

Once you've unpacked and settled in, make sure to introduce yourself to your neighbors. Moving is a great opportunity to make new friends and learn more about your new neighborhood. Plus, your neighbors will know all the hidden gems in the area, from restaurants to bars and coffee shops.

□ Step #14: Decorate

Decorating to match your personal style will make your new place feel like home!

□ Step #15: Throw a Housewarming Party

Once you're unpacked and settled in, throw a housewarming party to show off your new digs. Use your housewarming party as a time to catch-up with friends and get to know your neighbors and give tours of your new home.