

MOVING GUIDE

You Belong Here



Two Months Before:

- Sort and purge:** Go through every room of your house and decide what you'd like to keep and what you can get rid of. Think about whether any items will require special packing or extra insurance coverage.
- Research:** Start investigating moving company options. Do not rely on a quote over the phone; request an on-site estimate. Get an estimate in writing from each company, and make sure it has a USDOT (U.S. Department of Transportation) number on it if you are moving to a different state. If you're moving within a state, some states require a USDOT number. You can also check with your state's public utilities commission, moving association, or Better Business Bureau.
- Create a moving binder:** Use this binder to keep track of everything—all your estimates, your receipts, and an inventory of all the items you're moving.
- Organize school records:** Go to your children's school and arrange for their records to be transferred to their new school district.

Six Weeks Before

- Order supplies:** Order boxes and other supplies such as tape, Bubble Wrap, and permanent markers. Don't forget to order specialty containers, such as dish barrels or wardrobe boxes.
- Use it or lose it:** Start using up things that you don't want to move (frozen/perishable foods).
- Take measurements:** Check room dimensions at your new home & make sure larger pieces of furniture will fit through the door.
- Choose your mover:** Select a company and get written confirmation of your moving date, costs, and other details.

One Month Before

- Confirm the arrangements:** Double check that the mover is good to go for your moving date.
- Begin packing:** Start packing the things that you use most infrequently. While packing, note items of special value that might require additional insurance from your moving company. Make sure to declare, in writing, any items valued over \$100 per pound, such as a computer.
- Label:** Clearly label & number each box with its contents & the room it's destined for. This will help keep an inventory of your belongings. Pack & label "essentials" boxes of items you'll need right away.
- Separate valuables:** Add items such as jewelry & important files to a safe box that you'll personally transport to your new home. Make sure to put the mover's estimate in this box. You'll need it for reference on moving day.
- Do a change of address:** Go online (usps.gov) and fill out a change-of-address form. Notify important parties: Contact banks, brokerage firms, your employer's HR department, and credit card, insurance, and utility companies.
- Forward medical records:** Arrange for medical records to be sent to any new health-care providers or obtain copies of them yourself. Ask for referrals.

MOVING GUIDE

You Belong Here



Two Weeks Before

- Arrange to be off from work on moving day:** Notify your office that you plan to supervise the move and therefore need the day off.
- Tune up:** Take your car to a garage, and ask the mechanic to consider what services might be needed if you're moving to a new climate.
- Clean out your safe-deposit box:** If you'll be changing banks, remove the contents of your safe-deposit box and put them in the safe box that you'll take with you on moving day.
- Contact the moving company:** Reconfirm the arrangements.

One Week Before

- Refill prescriptions:** Stock up on prescriptions you'll need during the next couple of weeks.
- Pack your suitcases:** Aim to finish your general packing a few days before your moving date. Then pack suitcases for everyone in the family with enough clothes to wear for a few days.

A Few Days Before

- Defrost the freezer:** If your refrigerator is moving with you, make sure to empty, clean, and defrost it at least 24 hours before moving day.
- Double-check the details:** Reconfirm the moving company's arrival time and other specifics and make sure you have prepared exact, written directions to your new home for the staff. Include contact information, such as your cell phone number.
- Plan for the payment:** If you haven't already arranged to pay your mover with a credit card, get a money order, cashier's check, or cash for payment and tip. If the staff has done a good job, 10 to 15 percent of the total fee is a good tip. If your move was especially difficult, you might tip each mover up to \$100. Don't forget that refreshments are always appreciated.

Moving Day

- Verify:** Make sure that the moving truck that shows up is from the company you hired: The USDOT number painted on its side should match the number on the estimate you were given. Additionally, you can check if the moving truck has the company's branding, or vehicle number that was listed in your confirmation. Scams are not unheard-of.
- Take inventory:** Before the movers leave, sign the bill of lading/inventory list and keep a copy.

Enjoy your new home!