

Moving Checklist Essentials That Can Keep You Stress-Free



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Moving is a stressful experience that can last weeks or months, and there's a lot involved. You need to prioritize planning, packing, and transporting items, just to name a few items. Everything involved can make the process seem daunting and put you in a position to forget something, or rush and risk having an unorganized move. However, it doesn't have to be chaotic. By creating a moving checklist and timeline, you'll improve the chances of getting your items to the destination efficiently.

Work backward

Let's say you know the date you'll arrive at your destination. You already have your first day of your new job scheduled, or the day your house closes, so you know the period you have to get everything done. Work backward to spread out your moving timeline. This way, you'll complete everything in a timely manner and your tasks won't be piled up at the last second.

Find a moving company

Call a few companies to get moving cost estimates and their availability. You'll want to put this first on the checklist to ensure you actually have a mover to help. In the busiest times, such as summer, it can be harder to book a moving company, so get this done as early as possible.

When to pack

Don't leave packing until the last minute. Get boxes early, whether you buy them or get used ones from local grocery stores. You'll need enough supplies so you won't have to run out last minute to get more. On your moving timeline, schedule when you'll pack items that you use less frequently, such as off-season clothing, fine china, and holiday decorations, as this can be done early. Create a packing list where you can track what's in each numbered box on paper rather than on the box itself.



School

Notify your kids' current school when you'll be leaving, and find out what paperwork is needed to enroll the kids in their new institution. Put this on the priority list, since some public neighborhood schools have size restrictions and waiting lists, and private schools have their own application processes. You may need to spend time researching school options. That takes time, so keep this in mind.

Home

There are many things that make your home run smoothly, but they aren't items you think about often. For your current home, schedule a utilities shutoff date — gas, electric, water, cable/internet — and cancel garbage service and homeowner insurance. Of course, you'll then want to schedule these for your new home.



Address changes

You can change your address online with the post office, but you'll want to notify family, friends, and businesses of the move. This includes letting your credit card company know, as well as magazines and other vendors. It's helpful to print out some new address labels, and leave them for those moving into your old home, so they can forward mail in the meantime.

Memberships

If you have a gym membership, give yourself at least two months to cancel, if you can. Sometimes, you have to prepay the last month when you join, so if you cancel only four weeks before you leave, you've actually paid for a month you won't use.

Things to buy

As you make your checklist, keep an additional sheet of things you'll need to buy when you get to your new home. That might include basics like food items, cleaning supplies, and toilet paper. It's best to be prepared with that information so you aren't scrambling when you arrive.

Errands to run

You should also include errands you need to run, like returning the cable box, library books, dropping off clothing donations, and emptying your safe deposit box.

By staying organized and planning ahead, a move can be less stressful and you'll actually feel in control!