

YOUR MOVING CHECKLIST TIMELINE



INTRODUCTION

While planning a move, it's easy to look past important details you need to take care of before moving day. Things like transferring medical records or arranging your utilities can fall under the radar when you're busy trying to pack your life away into a million boxes.

Fortunately for you, we've created a moving checklist timeline, detailing all of those easy-to-miss items and when you should be doing them. By following this list, you can simplify the moving process and stay on track to ensure a smooth move and easy transition into the next chapter of your life.



Moving can feel overwhelming, but with this list and our moving expertise, you don't have to go through it alone!

2 MONTHS IN ADVANCE



Research Movers

Different movers have different capabilities. Start doing your research early to make sure you find a mover that understands your needs. It's usually a good idea to work with movers who will do an in-home estimate of your moving costs. This way you'll have an accurate idea of what you'll be paying, and your movers can take notes on any special items they'll have to consider.



Create a Move Folder/Binder

With all of the estimates you're getting, you'll want to have a set spot for storing any moving paperwork. You might even consider printing out this checklist guide and putting it in your folder to keep you on track!



Begin the Sorting Process

Moving is the perfect time to go through everything you own and consider whether each item still brings value to your life. Make three piles—donate, trash, and pack—and sort your items. Getting rid of clutter will help make the packing process much simpler in the coming months. While sorting, also take an inventory of possessions that might need special handling during your move.



Understand Your Moving Budget

Knowing your moving budget can help you save and arrange your finances so that you're not crunched for cash come moving day. Make sure to account for extra costs with specialty items like cars or antiques.

6 WEEKS IN ADVANCE



Choose Your Mover

Peak season for movers refers to the time when most people are moving. This generally occurs from April to September, with a large influx in June, July, and August. If you're planning on moving anywhere in this time, you should be looking to book your mover ASAP, but no matter when you're moving, it's nice to know your date is set.



Get Packing Supplies

You may not be packing much yet, but gathering supplies like cardboard boxes, tape, markers, bubble wrap, and packing paper will mean you have the right packaging and protection for your possessions when the time comes.



Gather Records

Unless you're moving down the street, you'll have to gather records to prepare for the switches you'll have to make after your move. Get your family's medical records from your physician, pet's records from their veterinarian, and your children's school records to ensure a smooth transfer from one location to the next.



Plan a Garage Sale

If you find the time, planning a garage sale can clear out clutter AND provide you a little extra money for your move. It's a win-win.

1 MONTH IN ADVANCE

Change Your Address

When you move, you'll need your mail to be forwarded to your new address. Go to your post office to fill out a change of address form, and maybe ask a neighbor to look out for any mail that gets delivered to your home after your move.

Start the Packing Process

There's a lot to organize, so starting now will keep you from haphazardly throwing everything in boxes during a chaotic shuffle the week before your move. Start with the non-essentials, and make sure to label the boxes as you go. One or two "survival" boxes with a few essentials should also be packed to have for those first few days of chaos after the move-in.

Arrange Your Utilities

Work with your utilities companies to set up the end date for your current utilities, and open up new accounts and set the start date for utilities at your new home.

Cancel/Change Any Subscriptions/Memberships

Have a gym membership? Or maybe a subscription to a cooking magazine that you never read? Consider either cancelling your memberships/subscriptions or look into how you could transfer them over to your new home.

2 WEEKS IN ADVANCE

Strategize How to Use Up Food

It doesn't make sense to let your food go to waste, so plan out how you're going to use those last frozen items and pantry staples.

Take Your Packing Urgency Up a Notch

Yes, you've been packing for two weeks now, but these next two weeks are where everything really starts to come together. You might want to cancel any plans and focus yourself on gathering your belongings.

Reserve Space

If you live in an apartment, you might need to think about reserving your building's elevator or ensuring parking is available for the moving truck. Even if you end up not needing to make any reservations, it's good to know you'll be in the clear come moving day.

Confirm with the Moving Company

Give your movers a call and make sure you're on the same page with date, time, and location.

1 WEEK IN ADVANCE

Get Your Suitcase at the Ready

Pack a suitcase that will be coming with you (not the movers) as you travel to your new home. Act as if you're going on a week-long trip, and pack clothes and toiletries to get you through the transition.

Refill Prescriptions

The coming week is going to be busy, so make sure your prescriptions are well-stocked to avoid having to make any emergency pharmacy runs.

Clean Up Your Home

You're not going to have time to do a lot of cleaning the day of your move, so make an effort now to leave your home presentable. Vacuum the floors, clean kitchen appliances, and wipe down sinks, tubs, and counters.

1 DAY IN ADVANCE

Prepare Your Payment

You may have already arranged with the moving company to pay by credit card, but you should set aside some cash for tips if your movers do an outstanding job.

Final Fridge and Freezer Check

You created a plan for finishing all of your food, but did you succeed? Make sure you don't leave behind any surprises for future owners.

MOVING DAY

Give Movers the Info They Need

Greet your movers and show them any fragile or large items that might need some extra attention. They'll handle the hard work, but you should be available to answer any questions that might arise.

Make a Final Sweep

Don't let anything get left behind. You'll feel assured knowing that you were the one to do the last check.

Know What You're Signing

When you're satisfied that everything is in place and accounted for, you will sign the bill of lading, a legal document detailing the type, quantity, and destination of the goods being carried.

Snap a Final Photo

No matter how long you lived in this space, it's nice to acknowledge this chapter in your life. You can ask your movers to snap a final photo of you and your family in front of the home!