



## MOVING CHECKLIST

### 8 WEEKS PRIOR

- ❑ Create a “moving” file or folder on [Google Drive](#) to store quotes, receipts, and records related to your move. For ex, how much is the mover quoting you? Was that price for 10 or 15 boxes? You’re not going to be able to remember all of the details. So throw them in a document for easy reference.
- ❑ Schedule in-home estimates with a certified moving company if you plan on hiring one. See our trusted vendors list for recommendations.
- ❑ Request time off work for moving day. If you can, plan to take off and move on a Friday. That gives you the rest of the weekend to get yourself organized.
- ❑ Choose a school for your kids. Need a little help in the research department? [www.greatschools.org](http://www.greatschools.org) can help you choose the best school in your area.
- ❑ Request transcripts for your kids from their old school for their new school. Regardless of how far you are moving, the new school your child attends will need these.
- ❑ Plan a garage sale. Then, donate anything left that you couldn’t sell.
- ❑ Plan how to move fragile or unusual items, such as guns, pianos, fine art, pool tables or safes. The list goes on and on. The movers you hire may not be qualified to move some larger (or more expensive) items, so

you may need to hire a specialty mover to do the job. Make sure you're aware of exactly what the movers you hired will and will not move.

- ❑ Confirm that your moving company is licensed and insured by verifying their Department of Transportation number (also referred to as a DOT number.)

## **6 WEEKS PRIOR**

- ❑ Collect free boxes from restaurants, liquor, grocery, and office supply stores. You can also pay a visit to your local bookstore. They have more boxes than they know what to do with and will be more than happy to hand them over for free.
- ❑ Research packing hacks to make moving day easier.
- ❑ Label your moving boxes using different colored stickers/tape for each room. This will make your life a ton easier when you're all moved in and ready to start unpacking.
- ❑ Create an inventory sheet of all your valuables before they go on the moving truck. Also, keep a private list of which boxes you packed your valuables in.
- ❑ Mark moving boxes that are fragile. You don't want textbooks stacked on top of your grandmother's china.
- ❑ Take photos of all electronics before unplugging them. This will help jog your memory when you're reconnecting things such as your TV and stereo.
- ❑ Put all your hardware in labeled baggies for easy furniture reassembly.
- ❑ Gather socks, t-shirts, towels, and linens to use as free packing supplies. You can wrap glasses and such in them to save on bubble wrap.
- ❑ If you're moving into an apartment, find out if there are any moving day requirements.
- ❑ Address minor home repairs before moving out. If you live in an apartment, this might be the difference between getting your security deposit back, or not.
- ❑ If you're moving cross country, have your vehicle serviced. The last thing you want is to deal with a breakdown mid-move!
- ❑ If your move requires shipping your car, don't leave anything in it! Spare tires and jacks might go missing.
- ❑ Measure doorways, stairways, and elevators to make sure all your furniture will fit. Measure twice – move once!
- ❑ Research your new community for points of interest. Find your new favorite hangout spot or restaurant! Last but not least for this section,

pack a little every day. You don't want to find yourself packing all of your belongings the night before. Yelp is a great place to start!

#### **❑ 4 WEEKS PRIOR**

- ❑ Purchase moving insurance to cover all your belongings during the move.
- ❑ Confirm parking options for your moving truck – you may need a permit for moving day.
- ❑ Use or donate items that you can't pack or sell, such as frozen foods, bleach, and aerosol cans.
- ❑ Gather all financial and legal records in one place.
- ❑ Gather birth certificates and passports for everyone in your home. Then, carry important documents on your person during your move.
- ❑ Find a landscaper/yard guy in your area. Reference our trusted vendors list.
- ❑ Pick up clothes from the dry cleaner.
- ❑ Compile medical, dental, and optical records for everyone in your home.
- ❑ If you're moving out of town, find a new doctor, dentist, and vet in your new neighborhood.
- ❑ Update your voter registration.
- ❑ If you're moving long distance, plan your route and book hotels.
- ❑ Shop around for cable and internet bundles. Then, schedule installation and/or cancel your old services.
- ❑ Make sure your pets have ID tags for their collars.
- ❑ Request copies of vet records and get any necessary pet medication.
- ❑ If you're moving out of the country, make sure your pets have all necessary vaccines.

#### **2 WEEKS PRIOR**

- ❑ Create a moving file to organize your moving-related receipts and bills. You'll want to keep a list of moving-related expenses to claim as a deduction at tax time.
- ❑ Recycle or dispose of corrosives, paint, flammables, and poisonous items. Make sure you're disposing of toxic items properly.
- ❑ Prep two-weeks worth of meals and use everything in the freezer.
- ❑ Return borrowed items from friends and family.
- ❑ Back-up your computer. If something goes awry during your move, you'll be thankful you have everything saved in an alternate place.
- ❑ Set up trash removal and recycling for your new home, and cancel your current service.

- Remove light bulbs from all lamps you plan to move.
- Moving far? Clean out your safe deposit box and any lockers you might have at a gym or community center.
- Fill your prescriptions.
- To keep little ones safe during a move, line up a babysitter or make arrangements for a play date.
- Find somewhere safe for pets to go during your move. Look into doggy daycare or ask a friend to watch them for a day.
- Use google maps to find your way to work by car or public transportation.
- Send out moving announcement. Share your new address with family and friends.
- Change your address with loan providers, credit cards, banks, and the payroll department at work. Also, remember to order new checks.
- Forward your mail.
- Change address for Social Security benefits within 10 days of moving. Make sure to notify government offices, including the Social Security Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, and the IRS.
- Transfer your homeowners or renters insurance to your new home.
- Cancel or transfer your membership at the gym, yoga studio, Crossfit facility, etc.
- Update your address for newspaper and magazine subscriptions.
- Transfer your utilities including water, electric, and natural gas.
- Update your driver's license.
- Update your address with Amazon and any monthly subscriptions boxes you receive.
- Change your address for your auto insurance and car registration.
- Clean outdoor furniture before it's moved.
- Transfer your prescriptions to a new pharmacy, if necessary.

## **ONE WEEK PRIOR**

- Donate unopened food by asking your moving company if they work with Move for Hunger.
- Make sure you canceled and/or redirected scheduled deliveries. Remember that pair of shoes that was on backorder? Make sure they get shipped to the correct address.
- Clean your current home for the next resident.
- If you are taking it with you, unplug your fridge and freezer to defrost the night before. Make sure you lay a towel in front of it to absorb any water that leaks.
- Drain water hoses to your washing machine and ice maker.
- Empty oil and gas from grills, heaters, lawn mowers, etc.
- Leave a note or small gift for new residents.

- Make sure nothing is hiding on shelves or in closet corners.
- Before leaving your old home, do a final walk through. Fill nail holes from hanging items.
- Check the weather channel and prepare for rain or other conditions for your move day.
- Pack an essentials box with everything you'll need for your first 24 hours in your new home.
  - A water bottle
  - Disposable cups or mugs
  - Non-perishable snacks
  - Paper towel roll
  - All-purpose cleaning spray
  - A twist-off bottle of something fun to celebrate!
  - Soap, shampoo, and conditioner
  - Toilet paper
  - Shower curtain and liner
  - Towel
  - Toothbrush and toothpaste
  - Deodorant
  - Sheets, a blanket, and pillows
  - T-shirt for sleeping
  - A phone charger
  - An extension cord
  - A comfortable change of clothes
  - Instant coffee or bottled cold brew
  - Comfortable shoes
  - Extra cash for tipping movers!
- Make a worst-case scenario plan in case your movers run late.
- Take photographs of your empty place to prove it's in move-out condition.
- Withdraw cash to tip your movers.
- Clean your new place or have someone scheduled to clean it. A lot of times, the previous homeowners are only required to sweep their house or apartment.

## **MOVING DAY!**

- Rise and shine! Set an alarm and get up early on moving day.
- Protect your floors and carpets during the move.
- They've worked hard for you all day, so tip your movers.
- As soon as your movers leave, make your bed and unpack your shower curtain and toiletries. This makes a nap and a shower so much easier. And let's face it, it's the first thing you'll want to do post move.
- Get to know your neighbors.

- ❑ Go grocery shopping. At this point, you've eaten enough take out. Having food in the house will also prevent you from unnecessary spending.
- ❑ Don't have curtains or shades yet? Cover your windows with sheets for privacy for your first night. You can also purchase paper blinds at Wal-Mart or Target. They stick to the wall for easy hanging. This will help you sleep more comfortably.

### **ONE WEEK POST MOVE**

- ❑ Leave a detailed review online of your experience with your moving company. You can use Yelp, Google, their FB page.
- ❑ Leave a detailed review online of your experience with your real estate agent and lender. These reviews can really help boost business for them and are also the best 'thank you' you could ever give.
- ❑ Post leftover moving boxes or unwanted furniture on FB or Craigslist. Or, give them to someone you know is moving.
- ❑ Clean the carpets in your new home.
- ❑ Sweep your chimney before you use it.
- ❑ Make sure your home's address is visible from the street for deliveries.
- ❑ Install a new home security system.
- ❑ Explore your new neighborhood – local shops, supermarkets, libraries, cafés, grocery stores, and restaurants.
- ❑ Send thank you notes to friends and family who helped you move.

### **TWO WEEKS POST MOVE**

- ❑ Aim to unpack all your stuff within two weeks of moving in.
- ❑ Last, but not least, make copies of your new keys for the babysitter, nanny, and dog walker.

**CONGRATS**, you survived!

We hope that our moving checklist has been the list to end all checklists. Was it helpful? Let us know. And as always, we love feedback. If we missed anything, let us know so we can add it for our future clients!