

2 Months Before

- **Create a moving binder.**
Use it to keep track of everything move-related — there will be a lot. This checklist, for instance, should be in the front of your binder.
- **Research and gather quotes from moving companies.**
Or, alternately, begin researching truck rental companies.
- **Start packing your first (small) box.**
This box will not be packed or shipped with the others, but will stay with you throughout the move. It will contain your important documents — passport, will, deed, etc. Begin gathering these documents early so you can identify any missing items. This box could also contain small valuables.
- **Back up your files.**
Before you pack your computer and its peripherals, make a backup of important files and family photos on a disk or flash drive that you can carry with you (maybe in that box mentioned above) during the move.
- **Decide what to sell or donate.**
Sell items online or through a garage sale.
- **Create a room-by-room inventory**
Take inventory of items in each room throughout the house.

1 Month Before

- **Decide on a moving company.**
Get a written contract that includes your moving date and costs.
- **Buy packing supplies.**
Boxes, tape, packing paper, etc. Cover your bases with our list of packing essentials.
- **Use the food that can't move with you.**
Your freezer should be clear about a week before the move. Take this time to dig into the back of your pantry, as well. Use it or get rid of it.
- **Plan your new home.**
If you have the room dimensions at the new place, start planning how to arrange your furniture.
- **Care for your car.**
Take it into a trusted mechanic and ask what services might be needed for a long-distance drive or a move to a new climate. Contact your car insurance company to update the address on your policy.
- **Contact your internet, TV, and utilities providers.**
Set your disconnect date. Begin researching which providers you'll use at your destination and schedule connection of your services.
- **Fill any prescriptions.**
Ask for doctor/pharmacist recommendations in your new area, and consider obtaining copies of your medical records.
- **Make travel arrangements.**
If necessary, book your flight, hotel, rental car, etc. If you're driving long-distance, plan your route and stops.

2 Weeks Before

- **Change your address.**
Head to the post office website. Be sure to have your mail forwarded from the old place to the new.
- **Cancel or redirect deliveries and subscriptions.**
- **Confirm dates with relevant parties:**
 - Real estate agent(s)
 - Landlord for move-in/move-out.
 - Moving company or truck rental
 - Storage Unit
- **Begin Packing!**
Pack one room per day, as much as possible. Move any leftover items (excluding furniture) to a centralized location. Schedule enough time to have the packing done at least 2 days before your move date.

1 Week Before

- **Begin cleaning empty rooms.**
How well you clean can mean the difference between all, some, or none of your deposit being returned.
- **Pack suitcases.**
Have one for everyone in the family to live out of for a few days as you complete packing everything in the house.
- **Collect all keys.**
They will need to be handed over to the landlord.

Moving Day

- **Have specific information for your movers.**
Contact information, address of the new place, and maps for getting there.
- **Make sure the right truck shows up.**
It should have a USDOT number printed on the side that matches the number on the contract you signed.
- **Sign the movers' bill of lading/inventory list.**
Be sure to keep a copy for yourself.
- **Tip your movers!**
A standard tip is \$20-25.

After Arrival

- **Check your utilities.**
Make sure everything is working properly.
- **Take plenty of pictures.**
If there is damage anywhere, these pictures will come in handy. This is vital if you're a renter.
- **Change the locks.**
Be sure to ask your landlord's permission. If you get it, give him or her a copy of the key.
- **Plan your housewarming party.**
If you have family or friends in the area, invite them. But this is more for getting to know your neighbors than anything else.