

Let's Get It Done!

Moving Guide

You can't totally eliminate the stresses that come with a big move, but you can mitigate the strain by planning and organizing your move with these moving guidelines.

Create a moving binder

This is the back bone of an organized move. You will need to keep track of people to contact, phone numbers, email addresses, check lists, estimates, receipts and inventories. Dividers will help you find things easily. I recommend adding pocket inserts to hold business cards and receipts.

The Purge Phase

Go room by room sorting and deciding what you will keep, donate, sell or discard. Boxes or bags labeled by category will keep you organized and make the process go smoothly. Items belonging to your children should be separated for their review. Take donations to a drop off center or arrange to have them picked up. Items you wish to gift should be discussed with each person to insure they will indeed be happy to receive those items. As you purge, check expiration dates on medications and food items. Dispose the expired items according to your town's recycling regulations.

Items of worth

Items of value such as jewelry or art that you wish to sell should be appraised. Start researching auction houses and brokers to assess level of interest. This process takes time and should not be left to the end.

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Measurements & Floor Plans

Take measurements of all furniture you are contemplating bringing. Take the actual dimensions of each room in the new home. Do not rely solely on a floor plan as they do not include bump outs or columns that will reduce your wall /floor space. Take note of the locations of all electrical outlets and switch plates. Measure the closets for hanging space vs shelves. Measure each kitchen cabinet and drawer. Start laying out your floor plans and finalize furniture choices.

Drapes & Rugs

If you are taking drapery and rugs, you might want to send them out to be cleaned before arriving at your new home. Depending on the timing, the cleaned items could be delivered directly to the new location or returned to your existing home bagged and ready for your movers.

The New Home

Are you planning construction or remodeling before moving into your new home? Painting or Floor Refinishing? These activities affect the timing of your move and should be incorporated into your move-in timeline.

Movers

Start researching moving companies. A representative from the moving company should visit your home and provide a written estimate. Never take a moving estimate over the phone. Movers offer either flat rate or by the hour charges. This difference could determine which moving company you choose. Confirm the type of payment the movers will accept. Contact your homeowner insurance provider to determine if you have in transit insurance coverage. If not, many moving companies will offer incremental insurance. Out of state moves have different state law requirements. If you are moving out of state, make sure each company explains the legal regulations.

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□ Packing

Are you planning on packing or will the movers be packing? You need to determine this as it will affect the estimate your movers will give you. If you plan on packing, keep in mind the movers should pack all breakables. Incremental insurance will only cover items the mover has packed. It is perfectly fine to pack non breakables. A word about the kitchen. Kitchens are where movers shine. They are fast and efficient and I always recommend having the movers pack the kitchen. Packing is not a sprint so plan plenty of time to accomplish this task at a comfortable pace.

□ Labeling & Inventories

Labeling is key to having an organized unpacking and resettling experience. There are four pieces of information you want on each box: your name, new address, the box contents, and the room the box will be going to in your new home. Label at least 3 sides in addition to the top. Keeping a box inventory is a personal preference if you are moving directly from one home into another. However, it is a must if any of your items are going into storage (See Storage below) or moving interstate. Boxes with items you will need that very first night should be boldly labeled OPEN FIRST. This would include your bedding so you can easily find your sheets and blankets as well as your coffee maker and mugs. Basically, anything that you will need that very first night or the next morning should be labeled OPEN FIRST.

□ Furniture, Lamps, Light Fixtures & Artwork etc.

Label all your furniture, rugs, lamps, light fixtures, artwork, exercise equipment etc with the room they will go to in the new home. Move-in day is hectic. Labeling allows the movers to get your belongings to the correct room without constantly having to ask you where the item belongs. Movers expect to move some items around either within the room or to another room so don't hesitate to ask them.

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Storage

There are definitely valid reasons to utilize a storage facility especially if there is a delay between moving out and moving in. A word of caution however, storage will become very costly if you are storing items with no move out date on the horizon. Having said that, many moving companies offer storage both short and long term. Shop around to determine if your moving company or self-storage is the best option for you. In addition to cost, you want to know how accessible the unit is, hours of operation, is it climate or temperature controlled and security. I highly recommend taking photographs and keeping a detailed inventory of items going into storage. There are many apps (Airtable, Encircle, Home Zada) that do a great job keeping track of home inventories.

Change of Address & Notifications

Check with your post office to determine how far in advance they will need a change of address form. Make a list of all people and institutions who will need to be aware of your change of address. If you are moving out of state, don't forget to get your medical records from your doctors. Contact utilities to set up a final reading.

Keep Valuables Separate

All valuable items (jewelry) and important documents (passports, birth certificates, wills) should be stored in your bank's safety deposit box or transported by you to your new home. In addition, all the paperwork pertaining to your move as well as your checkbook should be readily accessible on moving day.

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Medication

Medication should always be hand carried to your new home. Expired medications should be properly disposed.

Eat it now

Start using up frozen and perishable items. Many movers will not move open jars which will mean another thing for you to move personally. Refrigerated and frozen items are always hand carried. Expired items should be properly disposed.

Pack a suitcase

A day or two before moving day, pack a suitcase containing a few days-worth of clothing, toiletries and medication.

You are ready for your move!