



## Move Planner

### Complete Task List

#### Week-by-Week tasks

### 8 Weeks Pre-Move

#### Check on Your Credit

Moving is a good time to learn where you stand financially. Why don't you check your credit report before you plan your move?

#### Figure out Move Method

It's time to think about how you're going to move. Are you doing it yourself? Or hiring a professional? Start familiarizing yourself with options and your budget. Read more about choosing [the right move method for you](#).

#### Research your New Community

You can start learning about your new community by surfing the web. You'll find access to everything from neighborhood maps to restaurant guides. And check out our [city profile](#) reports for free.

#### Find a Roommate

Need a roommate? This is an important consideration. Don't wait until the last minute. Visit Moving.com's [Roommate Center](#) for all of your roommate matching needs. Whether you're looking to rent out a room or move in with someone new, you'll find helpful articles and great resources to help make the transition easier.

#### Do Your Research

Protect yourself and your belongings by understanding your Rights and Responsibilities when you move. This is a must read for anyone hiring professional movers. [Protect Your Move](#)

### 7 Weeks Pre-Move

#### Move Planning

Do-it-yourself moves should be planned for weekends, especially if you're relying on help from friends or family who normally work during the week. Are you going to need a moving truck? [Get a free estimate!](#)

#### Packing Materials

Throw out all frayed towels and sheets that have gone gray. Rule of thumb: If Mom would faint at the condition of your bed and bath linens - feed them to the incinerator (or better yet, use them to wrap delicate items on your move day).

## Pet Records

Learn more about how to [safely move your pets](#). If your pet's annual exam is less than two months away, take him or her to the vet for one last exam. Be sure to get referrals for vets in your new town. You'll also want to get a copy of your pet's medical records and check on local state requirements.

## Research Truck Rental (free on Moving.com)

Begin researching rental truck companies using [Moving.com's free Truck Rental Center](#). Err on the side of a bigger truck so you don't run out of room on your move day! Use a dependable company that guarantees the availability of a truck for your move. Solicit quotes and make a reservation.

## Travel Arrangements

If you are traveling a long distance during your move, make airline, car and hotel reservations. Pay close attention to flight schedules because you want to arrive at least six hours before your movers arrive.

## Research Storage Facilities -FREE on Moving.com

Too much stuff for your new place? Consider a storage facility which you can search for using the free [Moving.com Storage Center](#). Start your research by comparing pricing and security levels. If you need frequent access to your possessions, be sure the facility can accommodate you.

# 6 Weeks Pre-Move

## Food and Cleaning Supplies

Finish up or pack the remaining food in the pantry and freezer. Use cleaning supplies you have on hand and avoid shopping for household items.

## Get FREE estimates from Professional Movers

It's time to research professional movers and solicit price quotes. Visit our Full-Service Moving Center to locate movers and get an [instant estimate](#) or request a personalized price quote. Be sure to provide specifics about your move so there are no last-minute surprises or costs.

## Health Insurance

Call your health insurance provider to ensure that you'll still have medical coverage during your move and in your new town. If you have coverage, transfer the policy to your new address. Looking for insurance coverage? Check out our [Insurance Center](#).

## Notify Doctor and Dentist

Contact your doctor and dentist and inform them of your move. If you haven't selected a new doctor in your new town, request referrals from your current doctor. Once you have made your selection, arrange to have your medical records transferred. Note that most physicians require you to submit a signed letter before receiving records.

## Notify School of Move

Notify school officials of your move. Before your move day, try to arrange a parent-teacher conference to learn more about your child's strengths and weaknesses. This information will be good to pass along to your child's new teacher. Check out [Moving.com School Reports](#).

## Arrange for the Transport of Your Car

If you are shipping your car, boat or motorcycle to your final move destination, begin [researching](#) shipping companies and getting price estimates. Reservations can take some time, so make sure to plan early and make a reservation.

## Tax-deductible Moving Expenses

Did you know that moving expenses are often tax deductible? You may be eligible to deduct transportation, travel, and lodging expenses for job-related moves. Begin to keep records of all move-related expenses and documents.

## Time to Appraise Valuables

It's time to have your valuables appraised if you plan on insuring them before your move.

## Traveling Overseas

If you are traveling overseas, check local quarantine laws. You'll want to be prepared in advance of your move. Research international moves in [Moving.com's International Moves](#) pages.

## Update all Memberships

Are you a member of a community organization or club? Now is the time to formally resign or transfer your membership. You may also want to nominate a replacement if you hold a position on the board.

## Assess the Accessibility of Your Home

If you live in a remote location, on a hill, or have a steep driveway that may not accommodate a large moving truck, be sure to discuss this with the moving company when requesting a personalized price quote. Additional charges may apply if a smaller "shuttle" truck is needed to complete the delivery of your goods.

## Conduct a Pest Inspection

Inspect your new home for pests, inside and out. Search for service providers in your area with [Service Magic](#).

## Economical Alternative to Full-Service Movers

If you're moving out-of-state on a limited budget, try using a Self-Service Moving company. Click here to request a **FREE** price estimate from ABF U-Pack Moving<sup>®</sup>, a leading Self-Service Moving alternative that can save you time and money. Although this move style requires that you pack, load and unload your own belongings, the money you save could be well worth the effort.

## Contact Your Car and/or Home Insurance Agent(s)

Ask your agent(s) about transferring automobile and property insurance to your new destination. Looking for insurance coverage? Check out our [Insurance Center](#).

# 5 Weeks Pre-Move

## Notify Service Providers

Any regular service providers such as housekeeping, landscaping, pool, security company should be notified of your impending move. You may also want to take this opportunity to look into these [services for your new home](#).

## Get Homeowners Insurance

When you purchased your new home, you most likely bought homeowners insurance as well. This doesn't mean that you're stuck with the same insurance provider for years. Be price conscious and shop around for the **best rates**.

## Get Renters Insurance

Moving is a good time to consider [renters insurance](#), so contact your insurance provider and request a price quote for your new home. In order to find a good rate, it's a wise idea to solicit quotes from several providers.

## New Blinds and Decorating

Think about decorating your new place. Will you need blinds? Also, if possible, take measurements of all the rooms in your new home and decide where you will place furniture. Remember, new furniture can take over six weeks for delivery, so place your order well in advance. Check out our [Decorating Center](#).

## Order Long-Distance for Free

It's not too early to think about ordering long-distance phone service for your new home. Use Moving.com's [free utility center](#) to get turned on in advance of your move. Now is the perfect time to switch your plan and get free minutes!

## Packing Supplies

Consider purchasing [packing materials](#). You may protect some of your possessions using crumpled paper; blankets; pillows; even clothing. Sturdy boxes; packing tape; bubble wrap; and packing peanuts can be purchased from moving companies and truck-rental firms.

## Plan Side Trips

If you're driving to your new home and have some extra time, make a mini-vacation out of your trip. Plan to visit historical sites and national parks along the route.

## Propane Tank

Moving companies typically won't move propane tanks, gasoline, paint, thinners, aerosol cans and the like, so plan ahead and ask. If your mover refuses, make arrangements to transport it yourself or dispose of it properly.

## Donate Possessions

Clean out your closets and bookcases. Donate or sell any clothing you have not worn in over two years. Sort through books and donate them to your local library or school, or sell to a used-book store. Donate anything you were unable to sell during the yard sale.

## Update Car Insurance

Now is the perfect time to research [auto insurance quotes](#), so contact your current auto insurance provider and request a quote for your new town. Once you're satisfied with a new quote, take the time to transfer your existing policy to your new address.

## Yard Sale

What better way to get rid of old and tired possessions than a yard sale! Hold one in your neighborhood or exercise your technical know-how and hold a yard sale online. Read more about [Tips on having a Yard Sale](#).

## Take Advantage of your Empty Home

Obtain a copy of your new floor plan, or create your own. Then start to plan where your furniture and possessions will live. Measure the rooms, doorways, and stairways to avoid surprises. And seize the opportunity to clean all the walls, floors, windows, cabinets and closets, while your home is still empty.

## Get a new Bank Account

It's time to open a Bank Account in your new community. Manage your moving expenses easier by banking online. Some online checking accounts even offer 'cash-back' on purchases. Note: Do not close your existing bank account until all outstanding checks have cleared.

## Organize Possessions

Start organizing your possessions. Create a personal inventory. Decide what items you will take and what you

can part with. This inventory will also help you determine your homeowner's insurance requirements as well as the value of your shipment for moving insurance.

## Decide Whether to Take Appliances

If you are moving appliances, schedule an appliance service company to come on or immediately before moving day to prepare the appliances for the move. Let [Service Magic](#) help you find a professional in your area. If you are unable to locate appliance manual, you may also want to ask the appliance service company if they can provide copies of appliance manuals to take with you to your new home.

## 4 Weeks Pre-Move

### Service Your Car

If you're driving a long distance to your new home, give your car a tune-up, check tires, fluids and brakes beforehand. If you've been putting off a new tire purchase, now is the time to do it!

### Check on Car Registration

If you are moving out-of-state, contact your current Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and request license and title registration information for your new state. You can sometimes find this information through your favorite search engine.

### Pack Seasonals and Unnecessary Items

Pack all items that you will not need during the month prior to your move. This includes winter/summer clothing, sports equipment, books and linens.

### Pest-Proof your New Home

Make sure your new home is pest-free before you move in! Ask the current residents if they've experienced pest problems, or talk with your soon-to-be neighbors about unwelcome intruders. You can also [arrange for a visit by a local exterminator](#) with Moving.com or find pest-control products at your local hardware store.

### Arrange for Moving Help

It's time to ask friends and family if they will be available and willing to lend a hand on moving day. Be sure to get serious commitments and remind them about a week before moving day.

### School Registration

Register children in their new schools. Get to know the [school community](#) by arranging a meeting with the new principal and/or your child's new teacher.

### Need Temporary Housing?

Temporary housing can bridge the gap between arrival in a new community and finding a permanent residence. Learn more about the different options available for [finding temporary accommodations](#).

## 3 Weeks Pre-Move

### Arrange for Child Care on Moving Day

Give yourself a break and arrange for childcare on moving day. Your moving day demands your full attention.

### Car Stuff

If you have a vehicle that is under warranty, call your current dealership and request an address change. While you're on the phone, ask for a recommendation for a reputable dealership in your new town.

## Check on Plants and Arrange for Transportation

Find new homes for plants; they may not do well in transit, especially on a long trip. Keep in mind that [professional movers](#) usually will not transport plants.

## Furniture Damage

Jot down any existing damage on your belongings and furniture. You'll want to be aware of this damage in case you try to make a claim with your movers. And if your furniture is damaged, [schedule a visit](#) from a home services professional for free.

## Get Internet Service in Advance

Make sure you have Internet service in your new home. Use Moving.com's [free Utility Center](#) to get turned on in advance of your move.

## Transfer Your Prescriptions

Call your pharmacist and get a recommendation for a pharmacy in your new town. Transfer your prescriptions to the new pharmacy. If you are at all worried about having access to required medication after your move, ask your doctor for an extra prescription.

## Pay unpaid Tickets and Taxes

Call your local/state government to clear-up any unpaid taxes or parking tickets. Unpaid fees will undoubtedly find their way to your new house (and may even delay license renewal).

## Pest Control

Make sure your new home is pest-free before you move in! Ask the current residents if they've experienced pest problems, or talk with your soon-to-be neighbors about unwelcome intruders. You can also arrange for a visit by a local exterminator with Moving.com or find pest-control products at your local hardware store. to find local exterminators in your area.

## Pet Grooming

If you use a professional pet groomer, take your pet for a visit one last time before moving. While you're there, be sure to request referrals for groomers in your new town.

## Pet Safety

Look into purchasing a travel kennel or seat belt for your pet's journey to his new home. Learn more about how to [safely move your pet](#).

## Set-up Utilities for free on Moving.com

Contact utility companies and sign up for new service. Visit [Moving.com's free Utility Center](#) to get turned on in advance. Service should begin the day BEFORE you move. These days you can even connect service on the Internet.

## Social Security

Currently receiving Social Security Benefits? Change your address with the Social Security Administration (800)772-1213. Be sure to have your Social Security Number handy when you call.

## Retrieve Lent Items

Retrieve any items you may have lent to family, friends or neighbors.

## Set-Up Home Cleaning

Hire a professional to prepare your new home for move-in day. You may also make arrangements to have your current house cleaned after you move out.

## Important Documents

Organize, safely store and make copies of any important documents such as your passport, will, titles, etc. Take these with you, do not ship them with your other belongings.

## 2 Weeks Pre-Move

### Secure a Parking Spot for the Moving Truck

Make sure to plan for the arrival of your movers by ensuring that they have a convenient place to park their truck. Mark off a parking area with cones or chairs to reserve the space. If you live in a metropolitan area, consider obtaining a city parking permit to make sure the space remains available for the movers.

### Drain Gas; Oil Etc.

Remember to drain gasoline and oil from your lawnmower and other machinery.

### Get a new Bank Account

It's time to open a Bank Account in your new community. Manage your moving expenses easier by banking online. Some online checking accounts even offer 'cash-back' on purchases. Note: Do not close your existing bank account until all outstanding checks have cleared.

### Inspect New Home

Before moving day, try to visit your new home with your new landlord. You'll want to check for damages left by the previous tenants. You'll also want to arrange a time to pick up keys and have the home cleaned.

### List Light Fixtures to go with You

Can you take your favorite light fixtures with you? No - and the chimney has to remain behind as well. But although light fixtures are expected to remain where they are, certain precious possessions such as your chandelier shouldn't stay unless the new owners requested the item as part of the sale.

### Maps Online

Need some maps of your new community? Need to know the quickest route to your new home? Check out some of the many free map sites on the Internet. These sites are helpful and usually free.

### Moving Activities for the Kids

Moving can be overwhelming for kids, so get them involved by letting them pack their own belongings. You can also encourage them to draw or paint on the moving boxes (just make sure that their creativity remains on the outside of the box). Read more about [helping your kids adjust to the move](#).

### Packing Boxes

When packing for the big day, don't forget to clearly label each box with the room in which they belong. This will help the move quicker and settling in that much easier.

### Pets Leash

Be prepared for your dog's first walk in his new town. Find out about the leash laws in your new neighborhood.

### Quick List of Contractors

Keep the Karma going: As a gesture to the people moving into your current home, leave names and numbers of

all contractors, electricians, carpenters and plumbers who did work on your home in the past. The new owners will cherish the recommendations.

## Return Borrowed Items

Return all library books, videos and any other borrowed or rented items.

## Throw out Wastes

Dispose your household hazardous waste (cleaning fluids, lighter fluid, aerosols) before you move. Contact your Town Hall or Public Works department for the nearest location of hazardous waste disposal. You can also call 1-800-CLEANUP.

## Truck Rental Parking

Make sure to plan for Truck Rental parking by ensuring that you have a convenient place to park. Mark off the parking area with cones or chairs. Better yet, obtain a city parking permit to make sure the space remains open.

## Warranties

Help out the people moving into your current home by leaving them a stack of warranties, instruction manuals, and receipts for appliances and electrical devices remaining in the home after you move.

## Confirm Move Date

Confirm move date with the mover

# 1 Week Pre-Move

## Dry Cleaners

Nobody wants to find out that their favorite shirt is back at the old dry cleaners, so remember to pick up all of your clothes before you move..

## Make sure to Inspect New Home

Before closing day, try to do a walk-through of your new home with your Real Estate Agent. You'll want to check for damages left by the previous owners. And you'll also want to make sure that the home is clean and empty.

## Landlord Information

Write down the name, address, and phone number of your current landlord/building manager for future reference. Most job and housing applications require this information at some point.

## Make Sure to ask for Appliance Manuals

Don't forget to ask the previous tenant for any warranties and instruction manuals for appliances that will remain in your new home.

## Newspaper Subscription

Don't forget to subscribe to the local newspaper(s) in your new community.

## Notify Friends & Say Goodbye

Allow yourself ample time to say goodbye to family and friends. Be creative when notifying friends and family of your move. Choose from a variety of [Fun, Free and Funny Moving.com Greeting Cards](#).

## Pack Kitchenware



Get a good start by [packing](#) up all of your possessions that won't be needed during the week of your move. This includes clothing, books, kitchenware and that favorite old t-shirt you've been saving "in case we decide to paint the living room."

## Pet Preparation

Pay close attention to your pet's behavior during the weeks before and after your move. You'll want to surround him or her with familiar objects to help ease the stress of settling into new surroundings. If your pet will be traveling to your destination in a commercial aircraft, obtain a certificate of health from your veterinarian (often, these must be dated within 10 days of flight) and check with the airline regarding any other pet travel policies and procedures. Read more about [moving with pets](#).

## Pet Travel

If your pet is traveling by plane, arrive at the airport at least two hours early. Your pet will need to be placed in a proper travel crate. If your pet is small, consider having him or her travel in coach with you. If this works, have some fun with the flight attendant and request that your pet's meal be served in first-class. Also, at check-in, be prepared to show the airline attendant a veterinarian-issued certificate of health.

## Trash Removal

Make arrangements for final trash and recycling pickup. If you're leaving before the next pick-up date, ask neighbors if you can leave trash with them. You might also be able to drop off trash at the local dump.

## Write out Map and Directions

Make sure your movers know where they are going. Prepare written directions and a highlighted map. Exchange cell phone numbers so you can stay in touch in case one of you is delayed.

## Pack Valuables

Anything that is of value to you (jewelry, watches, small heirlooms, etc.) should be taken with you and not shipped with the rest of your belongings.

## Prepare Computer & Electronics

Whenever possible, pack electronics in their original packaging. If you no longer have these boxes, your mover can offer the appropriate packing material or purchase it online from our [Packing Center](#). Remember to back-up your files and hard drive.

# Week of Move

## Don't forget to mow lawn

As an added gesture to the new tenants, mow your lawn before you leave. The new owners will be grateful. Looking for lawn care services? [Service Magic](#) can help you find professionals in your area.

## Inspect Old Home With Landlord

Do a final inspection with your current landlord before you move out. Be sure to discuss any damages that may be deducted from your security deposit. If there is a dispute, remember that it's better to negotiate in person rather than over the phone.

## Check Under - and Above the Rug

Review your new floor plan prior to moving in, because you may need a carpet cleaning. Too understandably overlooked areas can be floor and carpet sections once hidden by couches, beds etc., so be sure to assess your cleaning needs prior to your furniture delivery. And after your carpets and flooring are clean, tape your room titles to door frames to assist the movers with what goes where. [Find a carpet cleaning service](#).

## Make Sure to Clean Appliances

Before filling your new fridge with fresh food, be sure to empty, defrost and clean it.

## Make Sure to Clean the House

Even if you're not personally a germophobe, take note of Moving.com's Golden Rule of Moving: Leave your old home as clean as you would like to find your new one. [Find a cleaning service.](#)

## Move Day Etiquette

On moving day, be considerate of neighbors. Don't block driveways/sidewalks and don't leave trash or unwanted furniture behind.

## Mover Snacks

The process of moving makes most mortals sweat profusely, so have plenty of snacks and refreshments available for everyone involved in your move. Even if you're paying for hired help, treat them as you would a helpful friend because the odds are good that they haven't dreamed about this day for as long as you have - and probably not at all.

## Pack Moving Day Items

Prepare a special box marked "Move Day." In it, have the following: a telephone, light bulbs, tool kit, scissors, flashlight, large trash bags, paper towels, toilet paper, aspirin and fresh bed linens.

## Packing Materials Onhand

Be sure to have tape, twine, padding and spare boxes available on moving day. It's also advisable to have a basic tool kit handy to disassemble bulky items.

## Pet Food

If traveling a long distance with your pet, be sure to pack plenty of extra food and water.

## Pet Litter

If you have a cat, choose a permanent place for her litter box and put it there the day you move into your new place. This will help instill good habits.

## Pet Protection

Confine your pets to a separate room on move day. This avoids attempted run-aways (and limits the potential cleanup to just one room).

## Photo Opportunity

Take a photo of the family in front of your old house before you move. You'll cherish the memories it brings. It's also fun to take a photo in front of the new house when you arrive!

## Plan how to pay for Move

Movers typically don't accept personal checks. Have cash, credit cards, or a bank check on hand for payment. If you're satisfied with the way the movers handled your possessions, it's customary to tip them \$20 each, more or less depending on the difficulty of the move.

## Truck Borrowing

If you are borrowing a truck from a family member or friend, be sure to reimburse them for gas.

## Bill of Lading and Inventory Sheet

Don't let your movers leave until you've compared your goods to the driver's Inventory Sheet. If an item is missing or has been damaged while in transit, make a note on both the Bill of Lading and Inventory Sheet BEFORE you sign them.

## Make Your First Night Enjoyable

You'll probably be tired from the move and will want to watch some TV with a hot pizza, so don't forget to turn on your Cable or Satellite for free in our [Utilities Center](#). You can do this right now and check it off of your to-do list - and don't forget that you can also [turn on and off](#) your local, long distance, gas and electric as well.

## 1 Week Post-Move

### Check on Extra-curricular Children's Activities

Now that you're settled in, get your kids involved in their new community. Sign them up for extra-curricular activities (sports, music lessons etc.) that will help them ease into their new surroundings.

### Call Landlord about Fireplace Usage

Before using your fireplace, speak with your landlord to ensure that fire's are allowed in your building. A working fireplace doesn't always mean that you're allowed to use it. Consider cleaning it before use and if you need a sweeper, [Service Magic](#) can help locate one in your area.

### Check on Return of Security Deposit

Have you received your security deposit back from your landlord yet? If not, it might be smart to make a call to your landlord to ensure its arrival at your new address.

### Check on/Buy Smoke Alarm; Fire Extinguisher etc.

Locate the police station; fire station and nearest hospital. Install a new smoke alarm; fire extinguisher and carbon monoxide monitor. You should also map out a safe escape route in case of fire.

### Contact New Library

Get the kids involved with your new local library. There may be a reading hour that they can participate in. This is a great way for your kids to meet other children in the neighborhood.

### Paint Closets

A fun first project for your new home is painting your closets. Give each closet a fresh coat of paint before settling in for good. Another quick-fix project is painting or wallpapering the bathroom.

### Thank Friends

As a nice touch, send thank-you cards to everyone who helped you move. You might want to include a gift certificate to their favorite store or restaurant.

### Window Fixtures

One of the quickest ways to spruce up a new home is with window fixtures. Swing by your favorite decorating store and pick up some blinds and/or curtains. Visit our [Decorating Center](#) online for more tips.

### Explore Your New Neighborhood

It's never too early to start exploring the new neighborhood. Invite the family for a tour of local landmarks. As you drive around town, jot down the location of parks, schools, museums and libraries. And shake off that post-move stress by locating the nearest convenience and hardware stores, video dealer, pharmacy and

supermarket.

## Conduct a Pest Inspection

Inspect your new home for pests, inside and out. Find a professional service provider in your area with [Service Magic](#).

## 2 Weeks Post-Move

### Check on New Fireplace Cleaning

Before using your fireplace, call a professional to do a thorough cleaning of the chimney. Find a professional chimney sweeper in your area with [Service Magic](#).

### Fencing

If your new yard does not have fencing, consider purchasing temporary fencing for your pet. Unless it's a fish, he or she will probably want to venture outside once you've arrived! [Service Magic](#) can help you find a professional in your area.

### New Keys and Home Security

You should have received all sets of keys to your new home. If you have any doubts, change the lock on the outside door. You can also install a second lock, such as a dead-bolt, if it makes you feel more secure. [Find a professional locksmith in your area](#).

### Pet License

If you moved to a different town or state, call your new vet or the city about receiving a pet license.

### Recycling

Make an effort to recycle in your new home! Call the local sanitation department for information about recycling in your community.

### Tax Forms

Don't delay next year's tax forms. Call the Internal Revenue Service to change your address (800)829-3676. Ask for form 8822. You can also [download the form from the IRS online](#).

### Update Driver's License

Visit the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and UPDATE your driver's license/ID. Many cities require proof of residence, so make sure that you have appropriate documents available.

### Voter Registration

Visit or call your local town hall about changing your voter registration.

### Get A New Bank Account

It's time to open a Bank Account in your new community. Manage your moving expenses easier by banking online. Some online checking accounts even offer 'cash-back' on purchases. Note: Do not close your existing bank account until all outstanding checks have cleared.

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