

Planning Your Move

Quick tips



Color code each room in your new home, then pack and label your boxes to match their new location.



Include kids in your moving strategy: Let them plan their new bedroom and help you pack.



Use suitcases to pack clothes you'll need right away.



Your pets are moving, too: Keep water bowls, food, collars, leashes and licenses nearby along with a familiar toy to reduce their anxiety.



Keep essential items close on hand: Tape, scissors, utility knife, hand soap, dish soap, kitchen sponge, hand towels, cleaning supplies, garbage bags, toilet paper, flashlight, batteries, matches, emergency kits, snacks and beverages, cups and plates.



If possible, take a day or two to unpack and settle into your new home.

Hire help

Get moving company recommendations and bids, then hire one 6–8 weeks before you move.

Take inventory

List the items that are going with you and inventory them with your camera phone.

Get insured

Will your mover and homeowner's insurance adequately cover your belongings during the move? If not, purchase additional insurance.

Cut back

Pare down your pile of possessions through yard sales, online selling or donations.

Get supplies

Collect clean, used boxes and newspapers. Don't forget packing tape and markers.

Stay organized

Map out where items will go in your new place and pack them by room. Clearly mark what's in each box, especially fragile breakables.

Keep it close

Hand-carry valuables and important documents in a fire-safe box.

Be ready

Separately pack toiletries, medicines and clothing to easily find them after the move.

Notify people

Share your change of address with friends and family, schools, your employer and landlord, if necessary.

Stop and start services

Determine dates to stop utilities/services at your old place and start them at your new one.

- Water
- Electricity
- Gas
- Trash
- U.S. Postal Service
- Cable
- Telephone (home and wireless)
- Insurance companies (property, health)
- Educational facilities
- Child care and pet care
- Doctors, veterinarians, lawyers and other professional services
- Magazines, newspapers and other subscriptions
- Clubs and memberships
- Financial institutions: bank accounts, loans, credits cards, autopay services
- Auto finance company
- Department of Motor Vehicles
- Social Security Administration
- State/federal tax bureaus and the electoral roll
- Tax assessor