

The Ultimate Moving Checklist:

A Complete Guide to a Successful Move in Six Weeks

presented by
Dumpsters.com

To make things as easy as possible, we created this PDF version of our to-do lists to accompany our online moving timeline. Print the week-by-week moving checklists to stay on schedule during the relocation process – especially after your computers are packed!



Moving Options:

Hire a Moving Company vs. DIY Moving

It's planning time. Check off these tips and reminders as you go to choose the right moving option for you. First, you'll have to decide whether you need professional movers or if you're going the DIY route.

How to Find a Professional Moving Company

- Ask friends and family for personal recommendations.
- Research moving companies in your area online.
- Set a budget for moving expenses.
- Call multiple companies to review costs and availability.
- Schedule in-home consultations.
- Ask about extra fees.
- Take inventory of items room by room.
- Determine items movers won't move and plan for disposal.
- Keep all paperwork in a safe place.

How to Plan a DIY Move

- Ask friends and family for personal recommendations.
- Research truck rental prices in your area.
- Recruit friends and family to help you on moving day.
- Collect gloves, a back brace and/or knee pads for safe lifting.

Tips to Keep in Mind When Hiring a Professional Mover

- Never pay a deposit upfront.
- Never sign a blank contract.



Declutter & Find Supplies

Now, it's time to get organized. Decluttering your home before moving can save you a lot of money on moving costs. Take this week to sort through what you don't need and find packing supplies.

How to Declutter Before the Move

- Recruit a friend or family member to help decide which items to keep.
- Use your new space as a visual guide for what will fit.
- Focus on items you use the most.
- Snap photos of items you want to remember.
- Plan a garage sale or auction.
- Consider an appraisal for items of high value.
- Visit local consignment stores to sell furniture and other items.
- Donate to local charities.
- Rent a dumpster to quickly dispose of unwanted items.
- Rent a storage container or storage unit to hold cherished items.

Moving Supplies to Collect

- Boxes of various sizes
- Plastic bins
- Shipping tape to secure boxes
- Sharpie permanent markers for labeling
- Box cutters and/or scissors
- Bubble wrap, packing paper and/or newspaper
- Gloves and knee pads for protection
- Furniture pads and covers
- Cleaning supplies
- Stretch wrap to group boxes together, protect furniture or keep drawers closed
- Labels

How to Start Packing Your House

Let's start packing! This week, we'll start with the least-used rooms and items in your home.

Check these spaces off your list as you complete packing.



Garage



Spare Bedrooms



Guest Bathrooms



Linen Closet



Basement



Attic



Shed



Dining Room



Packing Your Garage

- Wrap sharp items like saws and blades with a few layers of bubble wrap or old towels.
- Remove batteries from power tools. Pack tools in original containers when possible.
- Securely close your tool box with screwdrivers, wrenches and other hand tools inside.
- Remove your grill's propane tank or empty charcoal.
- Disassemble bicycles. Visit your local bike store for a bike box.
- Wrap rakes, shovels and brooms in a moving blanket. Tape securely.
- Remove and pack cushions from lawn and patio furniture. Clean frames.
- Empty fuel from mowers, chainsaws and snow blowers.
- Clean trash cans if you decide to move them with you.
- Wrap fragile lawn decorations or flower pots carefully in bubble wrap.

How to Start Packing Your House

(continued)



Packing Your Spare Bedroom

- Wash bedding and return to linen closet.
- Wash curtains and place in plastic bags before boxing.
- Wrap mattress with a mattress cover or shrink-wrap for protection.
- Use wardrobe boxes for hanging clothing in spare bedroom closets.
- Disassemble bed frames and other large furniture pieces.
- Bag and label nuts and bolts from furniture pieces.



Packing Your Guest Bathroom

- Wash towels, curtains and shower curtains and return to linen closet.
- Clean your trash bin and soap dispenser.
- Box up loofahs, bath brushes, soap dishes and other spa-like items.
- Wrap delicate decorations like flower vases with newspaper or bubble wrap.
- Wrap removable mirrors with moving blankets.
- Remove towel hooks or shelving that you intend to move with you.
- Pack or use up toiletries.

How to Start Packing Your House

(continued)



Packing Your Linen Closet

- Purge bedding, bath towels and blankets that you no longer use.
- Wash, fold and organize by color, use and type.
- Group sets of sheets with corresponding pillow cases.
- Wrap in plastic bags first when packing in cardboard boxes.
- Consider plastic tubs with sealable lid to keep fabrics clean.
- Remove liners from shelves and wipe down.



Packing Your Basement, Attic or Shed

- Sort through items you no longer use.
- Plan a garage sale (if you haven't already).
- Disassemble basement furniture.
- Pack home gym equipment like dumbbells and free weights in sturdy, reinforced boxes.
- Fold up and lock treadmill.
- Pack holiday decorations in plastic bins.
- Box your dehumidifier.
- Safely dispose of hazardous materials.
- Pack items that will remain in storage in plastic bins.

How to Start Packing Your House

(continued)



Packing Your Dining Room

- Disassemble dining room table.
- Pack fine china, dishware, glassware, silver and flatware.
- Pack your curio cabinet



Moving People, Pets, Plants and Utilities

(Oh, And Change Your Address!)

Now's the time to focus on some of the more sensitive aspects of moving. By now, your kids probably know that the move is coming. Preparing your pets is a whole different story. Follow these tips to make sure every member of your household is prepared for the change.



Tips for Moving With Children

- Toss or donate old toys and clothing.
- Introduce your kids to the new space, if possible.
- Inspire kids to decorate their new room.
- Encourage kids to pack some of their things by themselves.
- Fill a moving backpack with special toys, snacks and overnight items.
- Hire a babysitter for moving day.



Tips for Moving With Pets

- Research rules and regulations in your new area.
- Find a new veterinarian if necessary.
- Update pet identification tags.
- Pet-proof your new home before moving in.
- Consider a pet hotel or a pet sitter.

Moving People, Pets, Plants and Utilities

(continued)



How to Move Your Plants

- Transfer plants into pots.
- Pack pots in open boxes.
- Wrap plants during winter moves.
- Water plants along the way.
- Plant in new ground as soon as possible.



How to Move Your Utilities

- Make a list of your utilities.
- Research providers in your new area.
- Call your current utility providers.
- Ask about available discounts.
- Schedule any necessary appointments.



Places to Notify of Your New Address

- The U.S. Postal Service.
- Your bank.
- Magazines and catalogs you subscribe to.
- Organizations and clubs.
- The Department of Motor Vehicles.

Finish Packing the House

(And Fragile Items Like Electronics, Dishes, Etc.)

You're almost done packing! Now's the time to get ready for the big day. This week, start packing the areas of your home you use the most.

Check these spaces off your list as you complete packing.



Living Room



Kitchen



Master Bedroom



Home Office



Laundry Room



Items to Pack in Your Living Room

- Pictures and artwork
- Candles
- TV & home entertainment system
- Pillows
- Cushions
- Curtains



Items to Pack in Your Kitchen

- Pots and pans
- Coffee mugs
- Dishes and silverware
- Appliances
- Wine glasses

Finish Packing the House

(continued)



Items to Pack in Your Bedroom

- Sheets and bedding
- Clothing and accessories
- Curtains and window treatments



Items to Pack in Your Home Office

- Desktop computer and monitor
- Computer cables and accessories
- Books



Packing Tips for the Laundry Room

- Use, donate or responsibly dispose of chemicals like liquid laundry detergent or bleach before your move.
- Use laundry baskets or hampers to hold laundry room accessories.
- Wrap your ironing board with moving blankets.
- Wrap iron with bubble wrap and pack in a small box.
- Tape sewing kits securely and pack in a small box cushioned with wadded newspaper.

WEEK 1

Moving Day To-Do List

It's the big day! Review this list the night before moving day and keep it with you to stay on track.

- Pack your car with items you don't want loaded into the moving van.
- Use cones or signs to reserve space for the moving truck.
- Roll up and remove rugs, floor mats and other potential walkway obstructions.
- Move potted plants and decorative items from porches and walkways.
- Remove hanging plants, wind chimes and other low hanging items.
- Point out special or fragile items to movers.
- Have water or sports drinks on hand for yourself and the moving crew.
- Show the moving crew which bathroom to use if necessary.
- Dust, wipe down counters and vacuum before you leave.
- Communicate which items you will need unpacked first.
- Explain your color-coding system to the moving team.
- Share a copy of your inventory list with the driver.
- Take down the driver's contact information.
- Ask for the estimated delivery time.
- Take a final walk through the house before the driver leaves.
- Remember your moving essentials box.
- Have cash on hand to tip the crew.