

TIMING YOUR MOVE



The process of moving will always be more time-consuming than you think, and nothing will make your move more stressful than running out of time.

Thankfully, moving doesn't have to be as stressful as it seems, or as difficult as it has been in the past. There are **three essential tips** that can make moving easier on you from now on.





For a stress-free move, be sure to:

1. **PREPARE:** Get all supplies, forms, and packing materials you need for a successful move. You can't pack your belongings in boxes if you don't have them on-hand.
2. **DIVIDE YOUR TIME:** Procrastinating will make you stressed in the final days before you officially move. Take care of moving tasks early so you can focus on transportation and communicating with the moving crew on moving day.
3. **FOLLOW A CALENDAR:** Moving late can anger the seller who purchases your current home and may even lead to fines. Follow a calendar with a list of vital tasks so you don't run behind—or worse, forget an important step.

This guide has all you need to manage your move and minimize stress. Save or print this timeline to stay on track from 7 weeks out until your moving day.

Thinking About Moving?

If you're ready to find a new home, whether to expand square footage or downsize, modernize, or start work or school in a new community, there are a few steps to consider before you start collecting boxes.

The first step toward finding a new home is to work with a real estate agent. An agent can help you establish your budget, write down your list of must-haves, and start looking for quality homes in the right neighborhood. Your real estate agent will also advocate for you to negotiate with sellers, help you place an attractive offer that gets accepted, and even get preapproval for your financing and mortgage needs.

An agent can also assist you with selling your current home, so you aren't stuck paying two mortgages. Agents help you prepare for house tours, get a good valuation for your property, and attract generous offers. If you want to sell in a timely manner and for a good price, working with an agent is a must.



7 Weeks Before



RESEARCH YOUR NEW COMMUNITY.

Unless you're moving within the same neighborhood, crossing any sort of state, county, or township line means that you're subject to different taxes, laws, and regulations. Preparing ahead of time can help you avoid any surprises.



TRANSFER SCHOOL RECORDS.

If your kids are switching schools, have their records transferred to their new school. You can call their current school for assistance.



CREATE AN INVENTORY OF YOUR HOME.

Make a list of all your belongings, room by room. Add photos to supplement the inventory. Take individual photos of fragile items like antique furniture and electronics.



RESEARCH MOVING OPTIONS.

Review companies near you and closely consider options to help with your move (e.g., professional movers, truck rentals, etc.) Compare prices and ensure any moving company or rental service you contact provides service to your starting and ending addresses.



CALCULATE YOUR MOVING COSTS.

This should include supplies (*boxes, tape, other packing essentials*); on-the-road-expenses (*gas, tools, hotels, etc.*); storage (*in case there is a lag time between move out and move in*); and moving trucks or movers. Check out Unpackt.com for a guide to calculating moving costs.



CREATE A MOVING BINDER.

Gather all moving quotes, contracts, and receipts. Many moving expenses can be tax deductible, so keep this around for tax time.



GATHER FREE MOVING MATERIALS.

Start collecting boxes from grocery stores, department stores, friends/family, or services like Freecycle.org. The earlier you start, the more money you will save.



6 Weeks Before

KEEP, SELL, DONATE, OR TOSS.

Not all your possessions need to move with you, especially items that are just going to be put right back into storage. Are you having trouble letting go? Keep in mind that items you sell can make you money, items you donate can equal tax deductions, and less stuff means reduced moving costs and effort.

CUT BACK ON SHOPPING.

Clean out your refrigerator and freezers. Use backup supplies first, like your inventory of canned goods. Hold off on buying new clothing and decor until you're in your new home.

SCHEDULE YOUR MOVE.

Choose your moving company or reserve your rental truck.

PURCHASE MOVING MATERIALS.

Gather any extra items you will need, like specialty boxes for electronics, wall art, and fragile decor.

PACKING - PART I.

Reorganize and pack what isn't in use, and start storing boxes in a spare room, the basement, the attic, an off-site storage unit, or a portable storage pod.

CREATE A MOVING KEY.

Use a color-coded labeling system when packing your boxes. Label boxes by room and contents. This will make sorting, moving, and unpacking much easier.



5 Weeks Before



- MAKE SURE YOUR BELONGINGS ARE COVERED.**
Check with your insurance company to ensure in-transit belongings are covered. Bring a home inventory for reference and save copies of any agreements you've made with movers or truck rentals.
- COMMUNICATE.**
Start making others aware of your move early on, so you don't forget to notify anyone.
- SCHEDULE CLEANERS.**
You'll want cleaners for before move-in day at your new home, and after move-out day in your current home.
- PACKING - PART II.**
Valuables, jewelry, paperwork, and other important items or documents should be gathered early and kept with you during the move. Then, pack all non-essentials like decorations, artwork, books, specialty appliances, and out-of-season clothing.

4 Weeks Before

- HANDLE MEDICAL NEEDS.**
If you're switching doctors, call your current healthcare offices to gather prescriptions and transfer family records. If you're switching vets, call your current vet office to gather pet records.
- CANCEL MEMBERSHIPS.**
Start with places like gyms that often have long-term cancellation policies. Then, cancel memberships with grocery stores and other local businesses that aren't applicable to your new place of residence.
- CHANGE YOUR ADDRESS.**
It is best to start this process early, as there are more steps than just forwarding mail with the post office. You'll need to share your new address with financial services, employers, your cell phone provider, and subscription services.
- PACKING - PART III.**
Double-check your labeling system with what you've packed so far and continue packing your nonessentials. Leave out only what's necessary for the remaining weeks.



3 Weeks Before



HANDLE UTILITIES.

Schedule cancellations, transfer services, or set start dates for new utilities. Do this early to allow for premove repairs and other services.



NEW HOME LOCKS.

Purchase locks for your new home and arrange for a locksmith to install them.



ARRANGE FOR CHILD AND/OR PET CARE.

It's always best to keep kids and pets out of the moving day chaos.



PLAN YOUR TRIP.

Book hotels, secure transportation, and plan stops for long-distance moves.



REQUEST TIME OFF FROM WORK.

You'll likely need at least one day off from work—unless you're moving on a weekend. If moving means leaving your current job, it's time to submit your notice.



START SAYING GOODBYES.

Say farewell to neighbors, coworkers, and nearby loved ones early so you're certain you don't miss anyone.

2 Weeks Before



PLAN A WEEK ONE BOX AND A TRAVEL BAG.

A week one box includes items that you'll need during your first week in a new home full of unpacked boxes. A travel bag includes enough clothing for however long you might be without your belongings, plus toiletries, medications, and any other essentials. Sort items now to ensure they aren't packed away.



RETURN BORROWED ITEMS.

Return library books and items borrowed from neighbors, friends, and family.



DISPOSE OF ALL HAZARDOUS MATERIALS.

Empty and properly dispose of materials such as gasoline or propane, often found in household or lawn equipment. Dispose of paint properly or move it with you.

1 Week Before



PACKING - PART IV - FINAL STEPS.

Ensure everything is packed up, sealed, and labeled properly. Do a walkthrough of every room and your yard.



LARGE ITEMS.

Defrost, dry, and clean your refrigerator. Disconnect and prepare major appliances so movers will be ready to load them.



BACK UP ALL DEVICES.

A lot can happen during travel and transport. Backing up computers, tablets, and other smart devices will ensure your files and photos are safe.



PREP FOR A ROAD TRIP.

Gather necessary medications, food supplies, and children's necessities.



TRAVEL SAFELY WITH PETS.

Collect your pet's food, medications, and familiar toys or a blanket. Keep as many of your pet's belongings with you during the move as possible.



Final 24 Hours



GREET YOUR MOVERS.

Finally, it's time to pack up. Meet with your moving crew, give them instructions, and observe them when necessary.



GET READY TO GO

Make sure your phone is charged and your vehicle is fueled or charged to maximum. Load your car with the week one box and travel bag, along with any other goods that you, your family, and your pets may need during travel.



CAPTURE THE MOMENT.

Don't forget to take a few family photos in front of your old home.



**CONGRATULATIONS,
MOVING IS COMPLETE.
TRAVEL SAFELY AND
ENJOY YOUR NEW HOME!**

Moving can be overwhelming, but finding a new property doesn't have to be. Reach out today to start the exciting homebuying process!