

## Moving Checklist

<b>8 weeks before...</b>	
	Research moving companies with the Better Business Bureau and get recommendations from friends and family who have recently moved.
	Learn about your rights and responsibilities as you prepare to work with a moving company from the U.S. Department of Transportation.
	Consider extra insurance coverage you may need for your move. Ask prospective moving companies what insurance is included and check your homeowners' policy to see what it covers.
	If you are moving to a new area, research banks, doctors, and schools. Gather all the proper paperwork you need to set up new accounts.

<b>7 weeks before...</b>	
	Get estimates in writing from at least three licensed moving companies. If possible, have an estimator come to your home to do an inventory.
	Start a binder or folder where you can keep all of your moving estimates and moving-related paperwork.
	Make a list of businesses you will need to contact to change your address. Don't forget to list your online accounts, too.

<b>6 weeks before...</b>	
	Get the packing process started by assessing your closets and donating clothing that doesn't fit or you no longer want. When the closets are done, start to assess items room by room.
	Do a first round of donations of unwanted goods to charity, sell items online, or have a garage sale to help pay for your move.
	If you have children, work with the current and future school to transfer school records and make plans for a smooth transition.
	Begin packing items that aren't used frequently. Seasonal items, rarely used gadgets, and items stored in the attic or basement are a good place to start.

<b>5 weeks before...</b>	
	Use up food from the refrigerator, freezer, and pantry. Refrain from buying too many groceries, especially bulk orders, from here on out.
	Get the word out to friends and family members that you're moving. Send them your new address or send a moving announcement through email.
	Purchase moving supplies including boxes, packing material, tape, labels, and box cutters. Remember to order specialty items like dish boxes, wardrobe boxes, and mattress bags if your mover is not supplying them.
	Get a box-labeling system in place. Numbered boxes, color-coding by room, and a master list with inventory are key elements.
	Make a room-by-room packing schedule and start packing!

<b>4 weeks before...</b>	
	Fill out an official change-of-address form with the U.S. Post Office.
	Consult your list of businesses and services and make address changes on all relevant accounts.
	Put in for vacation time at your job for the days surrounding your move and schedule a babysitter if necessary.
	Confirm major details, especially insurance coverage, with your mover.

<b>3 weeks before...</b>	
	Cancel all newspaper home delivery and set up delivery in your new neighborhood.
	Gather valuable paperwork, jewelry, and small family heirlooms. Keep these special items separate from your moving boxes and make a plan for transporting them by hand or via a trackable shipping service with insurance.
	Take photos of any high-ticket items. Note any existing scratches, dings, or damage to your furniture.

<b>2 weeks before...</b>	
	Pack little by little so that you don't save it all for the last week.
	Tie up loose ends: Confirm that you've changed addresses, have all the proper moving insurance in place, and are ready to make your move.
	Put together a packet for the new owners of your home with any warranties, vendor recommendations, and a note with your contact information in case they have questions or need to forward your mail.
	If you are moving major appliances, make sure that they're clean and ready to go. Remember: Freezers need to be defrosted and you may need a professional to disconnect gas lines on particular appliances.
	Fill prescriptions and make sure that everyone has packed medications they need in their suitcase.
	Withdraw cash to tip the movers and make sure you have enough money on hand for any unexpected expenses.

<b>1 week before...</b>	
	Utilities should be turned off in your current home one day after your move-out date. All utilities in your new home should be turned on the day before you move in.
	Dispose of all flammable items that can't be transported, including paint, chemicals, and aerosol cans.
	Take one last look at the items you're packing. If you have additional items to donate, schedule a pickup by your chosen organization.
	Back up all computers, if packing.
	Get each family member to pack a suitcase like they are going on a two-week vacation with their daily toiletries and comfortable clothes.
	Confirm details with your moving company, including the moving-day arrival time, cell phone numbers, and last-minute details.
	Hire a cleaning company to do a quick clean after the movers leave or schedule a day that you will come back to clean before the new owners arrive.
	Most importantly, celebrate the memories you've made in your home and get ready to start a new chapter in your life. Onward and upward!