

Two to Three Months Before

Sort and purge. Go through every room of your house and decide what you'd like to keep and what you can discard. Some items will require special packing which could cause an increase in moving cost. This process will enable you to do a little "spring cleaning" even if it is in the middle of the winter! On things that you might not want to keep or move with you, you might consider donating those to a local charity. Have a Garage sale!

Research. Start investigating moving company options. We would recommend that you do not rely on a quote over the phone. This will certainly work from an estimate scenario but you will want to get an on-site estimate which will set the price. You will want to decide on who will actually pack everything. Most moving companies offer packing services that you could take advantage of but in some cases you could save money by packing everything yourself.

Create a moving binder. Use this binder to keep track of everything—all your estimates, your receipts, and an inventory of all the items you're moving. This will insure that your move is as efficient as possible.

Organize school records. Go to your children's school and arrange for their records to be transferred to their new school district. If for some reason, you don't know what school district you are moving to, you can always come back to this step but you will certainly want to make sure that this happens as soon as possible.

Six Weeks Before

Order supplies. Order all needed moving supplies such as boxes and tape, Bubble Wrap, and permanent markers. Don't forget to order specialty containers, such as dish barrels or wardrobe boxes. You can always try to save money and pick up some boxes from local businesses like a wine and beverage store. They always have an ample supply of boxes and are usually just throwing them away. These boxes will be small though. Tape and bubble wrap is the most important as good tape will help support heavy items and bubble wrap will help protect those fragile items.

Consume what you don't want to move. Start using up things that you don't want to move, like frozen or perishable foods and cleaning supplies.

Take measurements. Check room dimensions at your new home, if possible, and make sure larger pieces of furniture will fit through the door. Make sure that you not only measure what will fit through the main door but interior doors as well. Some examples... If you are placing a large TV or a couch in a room over or a flex room, make sure that you can get the item up the stairs and in that room. Same thing goes for dressers in different bedrooms. One of the most common issues is making sure that your refrigerator will fit. The newer refrigerator's have difficult times fitting in some older homes. Lastly – Check the washer and dryer area.

One Month Before

Choose your mover and confirm the arrangements. Select a company and get written confirmation of your moving date, costs, and other details. Please make sure that you have accounted for the “unknown” as it always finds a way to pop up.

Begin packing. Start packing the things that you use most infrequently. While packing, note items of special value that might require additional insurance from your moving company. Make sure to declare, in writing, any items valued over \$100 per pound, such as a computer. We have always found great success when leaving a couple of plates, cups and utensils until the very end. Make sure that you don’t forget about the attic and other “out-of-sight” storage areas.

Label. Clearly label each box with its contents and the room it’s destined for. This will help you to keep an inventory of your belongings. Pack and label “essentials” boxes of items you’ll need right away. Please make sure that you also cross-reference the label of each box with your “Moving Binder” mentioned above.

Separate valuables. Add items such as jewelry and important files to a safe file container that you’ll personally transport to your new home. Make sure to put the mover’s estimate in this box. You’ll need it for reference on moving day.

Notify important parties. Alert the following of your move: banks, brokerage firms, your employer’s human resources department, magazine and newspapers you subscribe to, and credit card, insurance, and utility companies. If you are moving locally, you can have some of these services just transferred to the new property. By doing this, you will save on any deposits that you might have.

Forward medical records. Arrange for medical records to be sent to any new health-care providers or obtain copies of them yourself. If you don’t have a new medical professional, you can always have these transferred upon your arrival; however, some medical records can take a while to be transferred, so try to take care of this as soon as possible

Two Weeks Before

Arrange to be off from work on moving day. Notify your office that you plan to supervise the move and therefore need the day off.

Clean out your safe-deposit box. If you’ll be changing banks, remove the contents of your safe-deposit box and put them in the safe file container that you’ll take with you on moving day.

Contact the moving company. Reconfirm the arrangements.

Do a change of address. Go to your local post office and fill out a change-of-address form, or do it online at usps.gov. But in case there are stragglers, it's always wise to ask a close neighbor to look out for mail after you've moved. Check in with the neighbors often.

Make sure that the Utilities have been scheduled. Make sure that all utilities have been scheduled to be connected at the new property on the correct day. In some cases, you might want to request that your buyer's agent either meet the utility company at the new property or have them hire someone to do so with your instructions. It would be best if you could meet them there personally but you will want to make sure that you have electricity when you move in along with hot water etc.

One Week Before

Refill prescriptions. Stock up on prescriptions you'll need during the next couple of weeks. Your medical professional should have already been notified of the move so they shouldn't have any issues prescribing a longer term medication based on need.

Pack your suitcases. Aim to finish your general packing a few days before your moving date. Then pack suitcases for everyone in the family with enough clothes to wear for a few days. The earlier you can complete all packing, the more time you will have to say your goodbyes.

A Few Days Before

Defrost the freezer. If your refrigerator is moving with you, make sure to empty, clean, and defrost it at least 24 hours before moving day. The same goes for all refrigerators, like the one that is in the garage, or in a wet bar.

Double-check the details. Reconfirm the moving company's arrival time and other specifics and make sure you have prepared exact, written directions to your new home for the staff. Include contact information, such as your cell phone number. Most moving professionals will stop and eat lunch during the trip and you might get disconnected so make sure that they understand your expectations and exactly where they are going. Please also make sure that you have some type of contact information directly to the driver of the truck.

Moving Day

Take inventory. Inventory should be kept from before and after your move. Before the movers leave, sign the bill of inventory list and keep a copy. Make the movers also sign it. You will want to have the movers place everything where you want it to be in the new house but this needs to be decided before hand. In other words, for every moment the movers are standing there while you are trying to decide on where to place something, your bill might be increasing.

We would look forward to working with you on all of your real estate and mortgage needs!

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