



A complete checklist for planning your move



As soon as you find a new place

- ☐ [Hire the movers.](#)
- ☐ Schedule a walkthrough of your home by the movers.
- ☐ Take a video of your home contents before you start packing.
- ☐ Start gathering moving supplies, such as [cheap or free moving boxes](#).
- ☐ Find or get appraisals of your antiques and high-value items.
- ☐ Declutter and avoid buying new items to [reduce moving expenses](#).

Right after you hire movers

- ☐ If you rent, give notice to your landlord and let them know your moving day.
- ☐ Request time off from work if necessary, planning at a minimum for loading and unloading day.
- ☐ Make any needed arrangements with the HOA (of your current home and new home) for mover access.
- ☐ Gather records you don't want to send with movers, such as important medical, legal or financial documents.
- ☐ Plan for items that your mover won't move.
- ☐ Set a cut-off or transfer date for utilities and other household services.
 - ☐ Electricity.
 - ☐ Water.
 - ☐ Sewer.
 - ☐ Gas.
 - ☐ Trash and recycling pickup.
 - ☐ Internet.
 - ☐ Cable.
 - ☐ Homeowners association dues.
 - ☐ Housecleaning services.
 - ☐ Gardeners or landscapers.

- ☐ Food delivery services.
 - ☐ Subscription boxes (beauty, clothes, food, etc.).
 - ☐ Snow removers.
 - ☐ Gym memberships.
 - ☐ Home security/alarm system monitoring services.
 - ☐ Babysitters.
 - ☐ Dog walkers.
 - ☐ Caregivers.
 - ☐ Exterminators or pest control.
- ☐ Check the mover's liability coverage for your belongings, as well as your own homeowner or renter insurance. Buy additional coverage if needed.

6 weeks before move day

- ☐ If you rent, contact your landlord to schedule a walkthrough of your old place (usually required to get your deposit back).
- ☐ Schedule a walkthrough of your new place to flag any issues before closing on the purchase.
- ☐ Schedule installs for utilities, cable, internet, security systems or other such services at the new place.
- ☐ Book painters, electricians or other home services you will need right away when you move in.

2 weeks before move day

- ☐ Contact your movers to confirm the moving date.
- ☐ Schedule cleaning and any needed repair work for your old place.
- ☐ Get cash if you plan to [tip your movers](#).
- ☐ Figure out what to do with pets and kids on loading and unloading day.
- ☐ Get on the schedule of friends and family members for help with DIY packing and unpacking.
- ☐ If you're decluttering and making charitable donations, drop off or schedule pickup of those items.
- ☐ Use up perishable food and clean out your refrigerator. Defrost your freezer at least 24 hours before moving it.
- ☐ Photograph complex tech setups, so you can easily reconstruct them later.
- ☐ Have your mail forwarded on the [U.S. Postal Service website](#).
- ☐ Pack a "go box" of items you will need before everything is unpacked, such as toilet paper, chargers or cleaning products.
- ☐ Start an "essentials" box for each person in your household with items, such as medication and a change of clothing, that won't go with the movers.

The day before moving day

- ☐ Confirm the payment method your mover will accept and get the payment ready.

- ☐ Transfer prescriptions to a new pharmacy and make sure auto-refills are turned off at the old one.
- ☐ Drain the gas out, and safely store or dispose, from lawn mowers or other equipment you're bringing.
- ☐ Empty appliances, such as the dish washer, washing machine, dryer and refrigerator.
- ☐ Retrieve any keys you've hidden on your property or given to neighbors.
- ☐ Charge your phones and keep chargers handy.

On moving day

- ☐ Make sure you've received the mover's bill of lading (BOL), which is a legally binding contract that outlines the terms of your move. On moving day, before anything is transported, you should receive a copy of the BOL to review and sign.
- ☐ Once everything is loaded, ensure you receive and review an inventory list that notes the condition of each item. If anything is missing or inaccurate, dispute it now.
- ☐ If you have high-value items (valued over \$100 per pound), make sure they're declared on a separate high-value inventory form.
- ☐ Direct the moving action. Be present, supervise, communicate and stay until the job is done.
- ☐ After the truck is loaded, do a final walkthrough of your old home.
- ☐ Look for any damage caused by the movers and take a photo of it.
- ☐ Lock the doors and windows, and leave keys as agreed.
- ☐ Turn off the lights and adjust the heat or air (if not disconnected), so it doesn't run all day.
- ☐ Take meter readings or photos for records.
- ☐ Double check your mailbox for any forgotten mail.
- ☐ Change/delete codes if the alarm system is staying with the old place.
- ☐ If you're renting, return old keys (including mail, gym, storage) and pick up keys for your new place.
- ☐ Give the movers the destination address again and how to contact you.
- ☐ Obtain mover contact information or how to track your belongings.

Upon reaching your destination

- ☐ Direct movers where to place boxes and furniture and unpack essentials first.
- ☐ Review and sign the final paperwork, which should include the bill of lading as a receipt and the final inventory list.
- ☐ Note any missing items or new damage before signing. (Your original video of your belongings can be helpful.)
- ☐ Confirm that utilities are working in your new home and call if they aren't.
- ☐ Tip the movers.
- ☐ Change your locks and make copies of new keys.

After you're unpacked

- ☐ Change your address with everyone you know or do business with.

- ☐ **Money-related:** Work, bank, investment accounts, HSA or FSA accounts, car insurance, life insurance, renters insurance, pet insurance, other insurance policies, credit card issuers, your accountant, your investment advisor, the Social Security Administration, the Veterans Administration and Medicare.
- ☐ **Kids-related:** School, tutors, lesson providers, babysitters, daycare, sports teams and coaches.
- ☐ **Medical-related:** health insurance, dental insurance, vision insurance, kids doctors, parent doctors, dentists, therapists, cord-blood storage, prescription deliveries and the veterinarian.
- ☐ **Legal-related:** Your lawyer, voter registration, state and local tax authorities if you are self-employed and the city/county property tax assessor.
- ☐ **Life-related:** Amazon, delivery apps, ride apps, family location-tracking apps, newspapers, magazines, streaming services or cable, your internet provider, the neighbors, your alma maters and alumni organizations, charities, the pet microchip company, airline frequent flier accounts and hotel rewards accounts.
- ☐ **Family-related:** If you send out holiday cards, announce your move on them.
- ☐ Claim any property tax exemptions.
- ☐ If you rent, check on the ETA for the return of your security deposit.

If you have kids

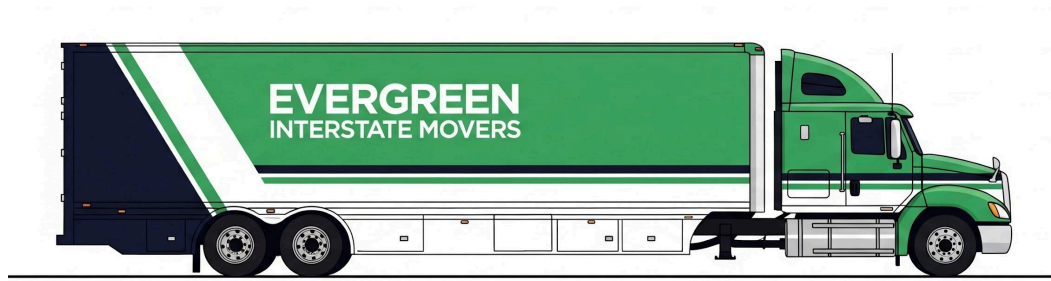
Right after you hire the movers

- ☐ Notify your child's current school about your move.
- ☐ Register for the new school, daycare and after-school care or activities.
- ☐ Find out what records you will need, such as transcripts and immunization records.
- ☐ If needed, get information about school bus transportation.

6 weeks before moving day

- ☐ Request the transfer of necessary school and medical records.
- ☐ Order any items you will need to baby-proof the new place.
- ☐ Schedule good-byes and last play dates.
- ☐ Identify which toys or comforting items the kids need for the move.
- ☐ Enroll kids in tutoring to avoid gaps in educational support.

If you're planning a long distance move



Right after you hire movers

- ☐ Find a temporary place to live if there's a gap between when you move out and when you move in.
- ☐ Book flights, hotels and/or rental cars for the trip to the new place. Arrange for transportation from the airport.
- ☐ If you're driving, plan your route and any activities from your old home to your new one.

6 weeks before move day

- ☐ Get your vehicle serviced and ready for the long drive, if you aren't having it shipped.
- ☐ If your moving company can't transport your car and you won't be driving it, [schedule with an auto transport company](#).

2 weeks before move day

- ☐ Clean out your safe-deposit box and close the account.
- ☐ Return borrowed items, like library books or anything belonging to friends or family.
- ☐ Pick up your dry cleaning and cancel the account if you pay for pickup or delivery options.
- ☐ Cancel your gym membership and clean out your gym locker.
- ☐ If you can't keep your current bank or credit union, open an account with a new one.

On moving day

- ☐ Consider tipping the movers packing your truck, if they're different from the crew that will unload at the new place.

After you've unpacked

- ☐ Get a new driver's license, which must be done in 30 days in some states.
- ☐ Register your car and see if you need an emissions test. (Check your state's DMV website to see how long you have to register.)
- ☐ Establish pets with a vet, so you're likely to get an appointment more quickly when you need care.

- ☐ Get a new pet license from the city (if required) and update contact information for pet microchips.
- ☐ Get a new alarm license from the city (if required), so law enforcement responds if the alarm goes off.
- ☐ Get a new safe deposit box.
- ☐ Update your estate planning documents. You may need to get an [estate attorney](#) to redo some of your documents so they're valid in your new home state.