

The Relocation Guide & Checklist

Moving to a new location requires careful planning and organization. This guide outlines the key steps to ensure a smooth transition to your new location, from initial preparations to settling into your new home.

8–12 Weeks Before Moving

- ☐ **Select a Reputable Moving Company**
Obtain quotes from at least three licensed interstate movers with verified USDOT numbers through the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA). Schedule services early to secure your preferred date, as peak season (May–September) has limited availability.
- ☐ **Establish a Comprehensive Moving Budget**
Include costs for packing materials, movers (ranging from \$2,200 to \$8,000 for interstate moves), travel, insurance, temporary lodging, storage, and a 15–20% contingency fund for unexpected expenses.
- ☐ **Create a Digital Moving Binder and Read up on Best Tips Before Your Move**
Set up a cloud-based folder (Google Drive, Dropbox) to organize quotes, contracts, receipts, inventories, and important documents. This page will provide numerous resources to help your move go more smoothly: [HOMEiA.com/moving](https://homeia.com/moving)
- ☐ **Declutter and Minimize**
Sort through personal belongings. Sell, donate, or discard items you no longer need. Reducing shipment weight can save hundreds of dollars on moving costs.
- ☐ **Research Your New State**
Investigate cost of living, tax implications, vehicle inspection requirements, driver's license waiting periods, and state-specific regulations that may affect your transition.

6–8 Weeks Before Moving

- ☐ **Notify Landlords or Realtors**
If renting, provide written notice per lease requirements. If selling, begin listing or finalizing property arrangements. Consider timing to avoid double housing costs.
 - ☐ **Acquire Packing Supplies**
Purchase or collect free boxes from liquor stores, bookstores, and online marketplaces. Get quality tape, bubble wrap, packing paper, and color-coded labels for room organization.
 - ☐ **Start Packing Non-Essentials**
Begin with items that are not in daily use, such as books, seasonal clothing, artwork, and décor. Label boxes with contents and destination room using the room color-coding system.
 - ☐ **Request Medical Records Transfer**
Contact all healthcare providers to request the electronic transfer of your records to your new providers. Allow 3–7 business days for electronic transfers or 2–4 weeks for paper records. Obtain 90-day prescription refills if needed.
- ## 4–6 Weeks Before Moving
- ☐ **Schedule Utility Transfers and Setup**
Contact your electric, gas, water, internet, cable, and security service providers to arrange termination dates at your current home and activation dates at your new residence. Many providers require two weeks or more notice.
 - ☐ **Submit Change of Address with USPS**
File a change of address online or at the post office. Notify banks, insurance providers, credit card companies, subscription services, employers, and the IRS of the address change.
 - ☐ **Research and Contact New Healthcare Providers**
Identify and establish relationships with primary care physicians, specialists, dentists, and pediatricians in your new area. Verify insurance network participation and schedule initial appointments.
 - ☐ **Begin School Enrollment Process**
If applicable, contact the new school district to begin enrollment. Request transcripts and records from current schools. Research local school ratings and district policies.

2–4 Weeks Before Moving

- ☐ **Finalize Detailed Packing**
Label all boxes clearly by room and contents using your color-coding system. Prepare fragile items with proper cushioning. Create a detailed inventory spreadsheet that includes box numbers and their contents.
- ☐ **Arrange Travel and Vehicle Transportation**
Book flights, hotels, or plan driving routes to ensure a seamless travel experience. Schedule vehicle maintenance if you plan to drive long distances. Research auto transport services if you plan to ship vehicles separately.
- ☐ **Transfer and Organize Prescriptions**
Coordinate with the pharmacy to transfer prescriptions to the new location or obtain sufficient supplies for the transition period. Organize a medication travel kit.

Backup Digital Files and Photos

Create secure backups of important digital files, photos, and documents. Store copies in cloud services and on external drives.

1–2 Weeks Before Moving

- ☐ **Confirm All Moving Details**
Reconfirm logistics with your moving company, including exact date, time, any special instructions, and their contact information. Verify insurance coverage details.
- ☐ **Pack an Extended First-Night Essentials Kit**
Include toiletries, medications, 3–5 days of clothing, bedding, phone chargers, basic tools, cleaning supplies, snacks, and essential kitchen items for immediate needs.
- ☐ **Prepare Appliances and Large Items**
Clean and defrost appliances 24 hours before moving. Disassemble large furniture and keep hardware in labeled bags. Take photos for insurance and reassembly reference.
- ☐ **Notify Personal and Professional Contacts**
Share your new address with family, friends, professional contacts, and any service providers. Update your address on professional networking sites.

Moving Day

- ☐ **Supervise and Document the Move**
Be present to oversee the packing and loading process. Take photos of valuable items before packing. Keep inventory lists and important documents with you, not in the moving truck.
- ☐ **Conduct a Thorough Final Walkthrough**
Inspect all rooms, closets, storage spaces, garage, and outdoor areas before leaving. Check that utilities are turned off and security systems are properly set.
- ☐ **Leave Helpful Information for New Occupants**
Provide relevant property instructions, utility contact information, local service recommendations, and any access codes or special instructions.

After the Move

- ☐ **Unpack Strategically**
Prioritize essential rooms: starting with bathrooms, then bedrooms, and finally the kitchen. Set up utilities and internet immediately. Unpack room by room using your inventory system.
- ☐ **Update Legal Documents and Registrations**
Apply for a new state driver's license within 30 days (requirements vary by state), update vehicle registration, register to vote, and update insurance policies with the new address.
- ☐ **Establish Your New Community Presence**
Explore local services, parks, restaurants, and civic amenities to get a sense of the area. Register children for activities, find new healthcare providers if needed, and establish your new routine.
- ☐ **Follow Up on Record Transfers**
Confirm that medical records, school transcripts, and other important documents have been successfully transferred to the new providers.

For additional guidance or resources related to moving to your new state, contact the Public Utility Commission of that state, visit the official state websites, or consult professional relocation services for complex moves.

