



moving to your new home

Use this checklist to get a head start on planning. For more tips and tricks that will save you time and effort, see the Cool Tools page on our website.

Where to Start?

- Create a notebook for move-related paperwork, or use a digital folder.
- Forward mail; a neighbor can help till the change kicks in.
- Send out moving announcements using snail mail cards, e-mail or social networks.
- Cancel subscriptions and update Amazon or other home deliveries; contact credit cards, banks, DMV, Fastrak, Social Security, voter registration and IRS.
- Transfer utilities and set up trash removal and recycling.
- Request a direct inter-school transfer of records for your kids.
- What fits in your new place? Measure your biggest furniture pieces and sketch them on a floor plan. Online apps can help.

Plan the Move

- Movers' estimates that are too good to be true probably are.
- Read reviews, book early, and, if needed, hire an auto shipper too.
- If moving a short distance, sufficient prep time and reliable friends may allow you to move by yourself. Borrow or rent a truck, get a one-day parking permit, and pick up tape, blankets, and bubble wrap.
- Make a moving day playlist to enjoy as you move and unpack.
- Transfer homeowners' or renters' insurance to your new home.
- Purge your home: plan a garage sale; donate to local charities.

moving to your new home continued

- Pack a little bit every day. One room at a time...
- Pack a box or two with items you can't do without: toiletries, prescription meds, a change of clothes, cords & chargers.
- Pack your high-value articles and keep them close by. Gather financial and legal docs, including birth certificates, passports and precious family photos.
- Label all packed boxes with the contents, the destination room and any special handling. Create a master inventory sheet. Mark fragile items clearly.
- Take photos of electronics and how to connect them; put hardware in labeled baggies. Use socks, and tablecloths as packing supplies.
- Note all your moving expenses to claim as a deduction.
- Line up a sitter or play date for kids and make sure Fido is taken care of.

Day Of

- Leave a clean home: fill nail holes with Spackle or use a bar of soap.
- Close windows and doors, lock up, and shut off all utilities.
- If renting, take photos of your empty place.
- Have cash on hand to tip your movers.
- Check if electricity, water, gas, cable TV, phone are up and running.
- Protect flooring: use old rugs by the door, shoe protectors, and felt foot pads on furniture. Lift, don't drag.
- Pay and tip movers!
- Say hello to your new neighbors.
- Install a new home security system, if desired.
- Make copies of new keys or install an electric lock.
- Send thanks to friends and family who helped.
- Plan your housewarming party.