

Pre-Move Checklist

2 months before

Get quotes for your move

Collect at least three estimates from different moving companies. Get written — and [binding](#) — quotes.

Make your moving budget

Set up a move file

Create a place to keep track of your moving info.

Research your new community

Gather your records and important documents

Collect medical records and important documents for your family (and your pets).

Talk to your insurance agent

Learn if your home and auto premiums could change after your move.

6 weeks before

Go through your belongings

Decide what to keep, donate, or trash.

Clear out your freezer and pantry

Use up your cleaning supplies

You shouldn't move aerosol products and bleach, so start cleaning.

Gather your moving boxes and supplies

Track down [free ones](#) or buy them for cheap.

Hire your movers

Decide what company you want to use or if you want to DIY.

Make a Moving Day schedule

Plan out how many hours you'll need movers or the rental truck. Gather your volunteers!

4 weeks before

Start packing

Take care of utilities (at both places)

Forward your mail

File your [change-of-address](#) with USPS.

Make a plan for moving your pets

2 weeks before

Make sure your car is ready for the trip

Get your car serviced so you don't have to find a new mechanic immediately after moving.

Change your address with your services

Let your [bank, employer, and others](#) know you're moving.

1 week before

Touch base with your moving company

Print at least 2 copies of your contract with your movers.

Pack your “essentials box”

Make sure you have [everything you need](#) for your first night in your new home.

Empty and defrost your refrigerator and freezer at least 24 hours before Moving Day

Finish packing

Moving Day

Protect your old place

Make sure you move out damage-free.

Stay out of the way (if you're using pros)

Do a final walk-through of your old home

Save all of your receipts

Track your spending, especially if you're getting help with relocation costs!