



Timeline for preparing to move in one year

12+ Months Before Moving:

- Plan and Budget: Determine your moving budget and calculate potential expenses, including moving company costs, packing supplies, and costs for setting up a new home.
- Start Decluttering: Begin the process of decluttering your belongings. Tackle one small area at a time (e.g., a closet or drawer) each weekend to avoid feeling overwhelmed. Consider donating or selling items you don't use or need.

6-9 Months Before Moving:

- Continue Decluttering: Keep decluttering, focusing on larger areas or more extensive collections.
- Sell or Donate Unwanted Items: Hold a yard sale or advertise items on platforms like Nextdoor or Facebook Marketplace to get rid of unwanted belongings.
- Hire a Moving Company (Optional): If you plan to hire professional movers, start researching and selecting a reputable company. It's beneficial to do this early to ensure availability and potentially negotiate a better price.
- Begin Packing (Infrequently Used Items): Start packing items you won't need in the near future, like seasonal clothing or decorations.

2-3 Months Before Moving:

- Empty Pantry, Refrigerator, and Freezer: Start using up or donating perishable food items to reduce waste on moving day.
- Create a Moving Binder: Organize important documents related to your move in one place, including moving quotes, receipts, and information about your new location.
- Notify Utility Companies: Contact your current utility providers (gas, water, electricity, internet, etc.) to inform them of your moving date and arrange for services to be transferred or disconnected.
- Begin More Extensive Packing: Continue packing, focusing on areas you've already decluttered.
- Change Mailing Address: Begin updating your address with important contacts and services like your bank, credit card companies, and insurance providers.
- Arrange for School Records Transfer: If you have children, coordinate the transfer of their school records to their new school district.
- Order Moving Supplies: Acquire necessary packing materials like boxes, tape, and bubble wrap.

1 Month Before Moving:

- Finalize Packing: Aim to finish packing the majority of your belongings.
- Request Time Off Work: If needed, arrange for time off work for moving day.
- Notify Landlord (If Applicable): Provide your landlord with the required notice to vacate and request your security deposit.
- Forward Your Mail: Complete a change of address form with the postal service to forward your mail.
- Arrange Utility Connections at New Home: Ensure utilities at your new residence will be connected on or before your move-in date.
- Collect Important Documents: Gather essential personal and financial documents and keep them in a safe place.
- Transfer Bank Accounts: If needed, begin the process of transferring your bank accounts.

Week of Moving:

- Confirm Moving Company Arrangements: Reconfirm the moving date, time, and other details with your chosen moving company.
- Defrost Freezer (If Applicable): If your refrigerator is moving with you, empty, clean, and defrost the freezer at least 24 hours before the move.
- Pack an "Open First" Box: Prepare a box with essential items you'll need immediately upon arrival at your new home (toiletries, medications, a change of clothes, etc.).
- Prepare Cash for Tips (Optional): Have cash on hand to tip your movers.

Moving Day:

- Supervise the Move: Be present to oversee the moving process.
- Take Inventory: Compare your belongings to the moving company's inventory list before they leave.
- Conduct a Final Walk-Through: Do a final walk-through of your old home to ensure nothing is left behind and that it is clean.

After Moving:

- Unpack and Settle In: Begin unpacking and organizing your new home.
- Set Up Internet/Cable: Ensure your internet and cable services are connected.
- Test Fire Safety Devices: Check smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Change Locks (If Needed): Replace the locks on your new home for security.
- Forward Mail: The USPS will forward your mail for 12 months, but remember to update your address with specific contacts and services.