

MIDDLESEX COUNTY EDITION

Moving Guide

NEW JERSEY DEADLINES THAT ACTUALLY HAVE TEETH

Driver's license — New NJ residents must transfer within 60 days of establishing residency. You'll need to bring 6 Points of ID to an MVC licensing center.

Vehicle registration — Also within 60 days for new residents. NJ residents moving in-state should update their address promptly

Dog license — Most Middlesex County municipalities require an annual license, typically renewed by January 31

School registration — Towns require proof of residency. You'll usually need a deed or lease plus two utility bills. Start early because some districts need a week to process.

Voter registration — Update with the Middlesex County Clerk

NEW JERSEY NOTE Book MVC appointments online at telegov.njportal.com/njmvc. Walk-ins for most services are not accepted, and appointment slots in Edison and South Plainfield fill weeks out.

8 WEEKS BEFORE

Get three moving quotes and confirm each mover is NJ-licensed and insured.

Book your movers. Be diligent, summer dates go fast since this is when most people move.

Create a moving budget.

Start a moving binder or shared folder for every document and receipt.

Measure doorways, stairs, and elevators at both ends so you're sure furniture can make it in and out.

Gather boxes and packing supplies.

Take photos of anything valuable before it is packed to record it's condition.

6 WEEKS BEFORE

Begin packing off-season and rarely used items.

Purge as you pack. Donate, sell, or schedule junk removal for anything you don't want or need to bring.

Notify current schools and request records.

Register at the new district and gather residency documents.

Organize important documents in one carry-with-you folder (*including deed, IDs, insurance, medical records, school records*)

Research parking and truck access rules at both addresses

4 WEEKS BEFORE

- File a change of address with USPS.
- Schedule utility transfers. Start with electric and gas (PSE&G)
- Set up water, sewer, and trash with the new municipality
- Schedule Internet installation (*book this now — installation appointments are the most common delay*)
- Notify banks, credit cards, insurance, employer, and payroll.
- Update subscriptions and deliveries.
- Transfer or arrange homeowners / renters insurance.
- Arrange care for pets and small children on moving day.
- Check whether your new town requires a parking permit for a moving truck.

2 WEEKS BEFORE

- Confirm the movers in writing (the date, address, arrival window, and payment method).
- Confirm utility start and stop dates.
- Refill prescriptions and transfer pharmacy.
- Transfer medical, dental, and veterinary records.
- Finish packing everything except essentials
- Label every box by room and mark fragile items clearly.
- Use up freezer and pantry food.
- Clean the current home as you empty each room.
- Confirm your smoke / CO certificate and CO inspection are done if you are selling.

MOVING WEEK

- Pack an essentials bag (*This includes medications, chargers, toiletries, two changes of clothes, coffee, snacks, toilet paper, paper towels, basic tools, and a shower curtain*).
- Keep IDs, closing documents, and checks with you (never inside the moving truck).
- Confirm closing time and location with your attorney.
- Do the final walkthrough.
- Take final utility meter readings and photograph them.
- Pick up keys, remotes, and mailbox keys.
- Have cash on hand for tips.

MOVING DAY

- Walk the movers through before they start.
- Point out anything fragile or high-value.
- Keep the essentials bag with you, not on the truck.
- Do a final sweep of every closet, cabinet, attic, and the garage.
- Verify the inventory list before signing anything.
- Confirm all keys are handed over or received.

FIRST WEEK IN THE NEW HOME

- Change the locks and garage codes.
- Locate the main water shutoff, electrical panel, and gas shutoff.
- Test every smoke and carbon monoxide detector.
- Find and test the sump pump if there is one.
- Download your town's trash and recycling calendar.
- Learn your bulk pickup day.
- Note your quarterly property tax due dates.
- Confirm your lender is escrowing taxes to the correct municipality (If applicable).

FIRST MONTH

- Transfer your driver's license at NJ MVC (*within 60 days for new residents*).
- Update or transfer vehicle registration.
- Register to vote with the Middlesex County Clerk.
- Order an E-ZPass if you do not have one.
- Get a municipal dog license.
- Get a library card.
- Find a pediatrician, dentist, vet, and urgent care.
- Introduce yourself to the neighbors.
- Walk your nearest county park.
- Try three local restaurants and start building your own list.
- Celebrate your new home.

MY MOVE (Use this to track your information for an easier move.)

Moving company & phone # _____

Move date & arrival window _____

Closing date & time _____

New address _____

PSE&G start date _____

Water / sewer start date _____

Internet install date _____

ABOUT YOUR REALTOR®

Hi! I'm Leonardo Lara, and after spending 30 years in Brooklyn and Staten Island, I made Middlesex County my home. I know exactly what it's like to compare neighborhoods, commute times, schools, and all the little things you can't get from a non-local or an "I serve all of Jersey" realtor. My goal is simple: to help acclimate you to the neighborhood quickly and easily.

If you're thinking of or know anyone who is buying, selling, relocating, or you just have a question about the area; I'd love to be your resource. You'll receive answers from someone who lives and works in these towns every day.

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