

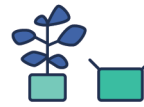
The Ultimate Moving Checklist

Everything you need to know about your next move, all in one place.



Bellhop

30 Days Before Your Move



- Determine the size and complexity of your move.**

The first thing to decide is whether you want to manage things on your own or have other people handle the heavy lifting. Carefully consider how much time, money, and effort you're prepared to devote to the project.
- If you hire movers, get to know them.**

Read the company's Terms and Conditions so that you understand their insurance and business policies, as well as if there's anything they can't or won't move for you. The more you understand how move day will work, the better everything will go.
- Create a moving folder to keep important documents secure.**

It's easy to lose important documents (such as passports, birth certificates, and property contracts) in the shuffle of boxes and papers. So save yourself the stress and keep them all together in a designated folder.
- Organize your file cabinet.**

Shred or recycle the papers you don't need.
- Begin decluttering your home.**

The less stuff you have, the easier it is to move!
- Measure your furniture and consider how it will fit in your new home.**

Note the dimensions of your new home to see which pieces of furniture are worth bringing. There's no point in moving something that you'll need to get rid of later.
- Sell or donate what you won't be taking with you.**

Host a garage sale, sell items on Craigslist, or, better yet, donate them to local charities. Only throw away the things no one would want.
- Start gathering moving supplies.**

Save money by looking for free boxes at liquor stores, grocery stores, and restaurants.
- Begin packing.**

Choose a corner and start with the items you won't be using prior to your move.

- Label like you mean it.**

Be sure to label your boxes as you go. It's easier if you pack boxes room by room.
- Check your rental requirements.**

It pays to give your landlord or property manager the proper notification.
- Record the serial numbers of your valuables.**

Your future self will thank you for making a list of the items that are very important to you and recording any identifiable information about them.
- FRA-GEEL-LAY—label it!**

Any box that has something breakable should be clearly labeled "Fragile."
- Pack with a soft touch.**

Resourcefulness makes for efficient packing. Use dish towels, blankets, and socks as a way to damage-proof delicate items.
- Talk to your kids about the move.**

Now is the time to begin the conversation with your kids about moving and the feelings they might experience.
- Start learning about your new neighborhood!**

Check out our blog and city guides for resources that can help you get settled.
- Map your journey.**

If you're moving long distance, determine the most-efficient route. For a multi-day trip, think about the cities where you'll want to spend the night.
- Make travel and lodging arrangements.**

Book hotels or Airbnbs for your trip. If you're bringing along a four-legged friend, make sure the accommodations are pet-friendly.
- Keep your kids, pets, and job in mind.**

Remember to schedule time off from work and find someone to watch your children and pets while the truck gets loaded and unloaded.

Two Weeks Before Your Move



- Ask for help.**

If you've decided not to hire movers, be sure to ask your friends and family for help ahead of time!
- Notify your utility companies.**

Set up disconnect and reconnect dates with your phone, water, cable, internet, gas, and electricity providers.
- Transfer your services.**

Change your address through the USPS and update any subscription services as well as home-security, pest-control, house-cleaning, and lawn-care services you receive.
- Schedule your service installation.**

You'll want to do that within the first day or two of being in your new home. Updater can make the transition easy.

- Take care of minor repairs.**
If you're leaving a rental, handling minor repairs—such as filling in nail holes or touching up scratches—can go a long way toward getting your whole security deposit back.
- Secure parking for the moving truck.**
Confirm there will be space available for loading and unloading. And look into getting a permit if you need one.
- Reserve your elevator.**
If you're moving into a building with an elevator, see if you can reserve it. A lot of apartment complexes also have a freight elevator that can be booked.
- Get the green light on your car.**
A quick car service—tire rotation, oil change, and brake check—will ensure your vehicle is ready and help you feel more confident about your trip.

- If you're shipping your car, clean it out first.**
This is a great way to avoid leaving anything valuable inside.
- Fill your prescriptions.**
Because it might take a few days to find your new pharmacy, make sure you have enough of what you need before you go.
- Gather your medical records.**
Contact your health-care providers to obtain medical records for everyone in your family (including your pets).
- Return any items you've borrowed.**
And check to see that you've gotten all of your possessions back!

One Week Before Your Move



- Review your auto and homeowners insurance.**
Make sure your providers operate in your new location.
- Make your employer aware of your new address.**
- Cancel services you won't be able to use anymore.**
If you're moving to another city, cancel any local memberships you have, such as the library or gym. (Many organizations require this in writing.)
- Check on the trash and recycling services for your new home.**
And, if applicable, cancel your current services.
- Take some pictures.**
When packing your television and other electronics, take a picture of how the cords are arranged so that you have a visual guide to set things up in your new home.
- Keep loose hardware together.**
When you're disassembling your furniture, make sure to bag the screws and other hardware and then tape them to a larger item.
- Dispose of any hazardous items that have been stored in your garage or basement.**
Empty your gas-powered appliances and get rid of any materials that aren't safe to move with—such as paint, pesticides, weed killers, lime, turpentine, and varnishes.
- Organize your digital files.**
Back up your phone on your computer, then back up your computer as well.
- Plan activities for your kids.**
Think of fun ways to keep your kids occupied while you unpack your new home. (Bonus points if you can get them to help!)
- Pack up your pantry.**
It's a good idea to defer any extensive cooking plans until after your move.
- Empty your kitchen.**
It's difficult to move with perishable foods, so try to get rid of everything in your fridge. You can do this the fun way (eating!) or the generous way (donating!). Either is great.
- Do a deep clean of your home.**
Especially the stuff that's easy to overlook, like windows and floorboards.
- Announce your big move!**
Pinterest has a ton of great ideas for how to share the news with your friends.

One Day From Your Move



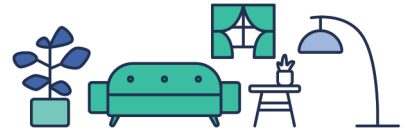
- Check the weather.**
If the skies look scary, reach out to your moving company to see what they recommend.
- Keep your essentials handy.**
We recommend packing a separate bag of essentials and transporting it in your personal vehicle so that the items don't get misplaced with your other boxes.
- Pack a suitcase.**
It can be difficult to unpack all of your belongings in a day, so you'll want to have a few changes of clothes easily accessible.
- Clean your refrigerator and freezer.**
Once they're empty, let them defrost and then wipe everything dry.
- Drain your washing machine and empty your ice-maker.**
- Empty all appliances of hazardous chemicals.**
Grills, lawn mowers, heaters, leaf blowers, and snow blowers all need to be emptied of oil and gas.
- Check all nooks and crannies.**
Especially your attic and basement. Make sure you don't leave any items behind!
- Complete your moving-out tasks as identified by your landlord.**
- Say hi to your movers!**
If you've booked Bellhop, you'll receive an e-mail before your move with the names and photos of your team. The lead of your move will also text or call to see if there are any details you want the team to be aware of. This is a good time to tell them if there are any particularly heavy or awkward-to-carry pieces of furniture.
- Consider how you want to tip**
Consumer Reports suggests 5 to 10 percent of the cost, or \$10 to \$20 per person, but the amount is completely up to you. Tip your movers with cash before they leave (or, if you hired bellhops, you can tip them online).
- Collect all of the keys to hand off to your Realtor or landlord.**
- Finalize details.**
Confirm plans and reservations for the next day.
- Say goodbye to your neighbors.**
- Get a good night's sleep.**

Day of Your Move



- Keep your suitcase and essentials in an accessible place.**
- Remember to use blankets to protect your hardwood floors and carpets from dirt and damage.**
- Communicate with your movers.**
When your movers arrive, let them know if you have any preferences about the order in which items are moved.
- If you've booked Bellhops, sit back and relax.**
Our movers will take care of the rest.
- If you're moving on your own, stay hydrated and lift with your legs.**
- Once your movers leave, plop down on the couch and feel good about all you've accomplished.**
- Do a quick walk-through of your new home.**
Note any existing damages if you're a renter.
- Unpack fragile items or anything you'd like to use in the first 24 hours.**
- Set up your security system as soon as you can.**
- Head to the grocery store.**
Time to restock! (Don't feel like you have to go overboard right away.)

After Your Move



We hope you're in love with your new home.

Get the unpacking underway!

Head to your local hardware store to make copies of your keys.

You never know when spares will come in handy, but we promise they will.

Decide which boxes go and which you'll store.

Any box that's been used more than twice should probably get recycled. But we recommend keeping your appliance boxes for the next time you move—especially your TV boxes.

Live like a local.

Explore your new neighborhood. If you need any recommendations, check out our city guides.

Meet your neighbors.

Host a housewarming party.