

8 Organizing Tips When Packing for a Move

Moving to a new home can be exciting... and stressful. But with some upfront planning and organization, you can mitigate the chaos for your family and enjoy a smooth move. Here are eight tips to help.

1. Create an Inventory

This may seem like a lot of work, but it will save you frustration later. Create a simple system that works for you to keep track of the contents of each box. Then label each box to match your list. For example, you can use a notebook or spreadsheet to list box numbers with spaces to list each box's contents. Don't be too vague when creating your inventory. Rather than "John's Bedroom," specifically label "John's Shorts & T-shirts." Then, label each box with the corresponding number. Are you a more visual person? Take a photo of your items before packing them. Create photo file names that correspond to your boxes' numbers.

2. Add Some Color Coordination

Take your organization to the next level by designating a color for each room in your new residence (i.e. blue for kitchen, yellow for upstairs bathroom, etc.) You can then affix a colored sticker to each box next to the box number. Help the movers know where to put everything while unloading by putting a large color designation on each room's door or wall.

3. Get Started Early

Moving in New Jersey in June? You won't need your winter parkas, snow boots, or the china you only use for holidays. Pack it up. You will be surprised how many items you will not need in the month leading up to your move – from stockpiles of cleaning supplies to seasonal decor. Plan ahead and save time in the days leading up to your move.

4. Stock Up on Moving Supplies

Bring in more boxes than you think you will need! You don't realize the actual amount of stuff you have in your home until you start packing it. You can always return extra items after the moving truck leaves – better to have extras than realize the day before your move you don't have enough. Set aside some boxes for the last-minute items to be packed on moving day such as bedding, clothes, and items at the bottom of closets. And be sure you have enough packing materials like bubble wrap, packing paper and heavy-duty packing tape.

ARRANGED PRO TIP

Rent Moving Crates

Plastic moving crates are sturdy, easy to stack and environmentally friendly. And, you don't need to worry about disposing them once you are in your new home. Sometimes renting crates can cost less than purchasing cardboard boxes and the supplies that go along with them.



5. **Pack Your Suitcases**

Your luggage and large duffle bags are perfect vessels for packing more than clothes. Use them for sheets, towels, paper goods and toys. Be sure to inventory and label suitcases just as you are doing for your boxes.

6. **Be Smart with Wardrobe Boxes**

Wardrobe boxes make packing your hanging clothes a breeze. Packing them tightly will ensure your items don't fall off the hangers. These tall boxes are also great for adding bulky items to the bottom such as bedding, sweaters, even storage baskets. (Make sure the boxes are not too heavy so you don't risk having them break.) And don't forget purses, belts and scarves can be draped on hangers to get more items in each box.

7. **Protect Your Valuable Items and Papers**

It is best to keep valuable items such as antiques, jewelry, and good silverware with you. If that's not possible, bury them with random, miscellaneous items. You will be able to easily find them in your new home with your inventory list! Keep your list of important papers with you, though. Depending on your situation this can include documents such as mover contracts, passports, health records, and closing papers. You will want easy access to these records.

8. **Create Personal Boxes**

Each member of your family has personal items that they will want or need right away in your new home – cell phone chargers, alarm clocks, school books, even favorite toys. Designate a box for each family member and make them visually different from the rest so you can easily identify them. This way, no one is stressed the first night in your new home!

ARRANGED PRO TIP

Use Shredded Documents as Packing Material

Reviewing household papers *before* your move can cut down the number of boxes you need to move. Give your discarded documents a second life by shredding and using them for packing boxes. You can recycle the paper once you unpack your new home.

You've followed these tips and organized your packing for a smooth move.
Now the thought of unpacking a sea of boxes in your new home is overwhelming!

Consider hiring a Professional Organizer to do it for you. ARRANGED will implement a plan to unpack your belongings and professionally organize each space in your home in a functional, aesthetically-pleasing way. We'll reduce your stress and the amount of time it takes for you and your family to feel right at home.

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