

Minimizing Moving Nightmares

Checklist and tricks to making a local move a little smother

6-8 weeks out

- Establish a timeline for the move so you don't get overwhelmed
- Begin collecting/buying boxes
- Create a place where you will begin to place packed boxes
- If you will be hiring movers, begin researching and collecting quotes
- Begin sorting through basement and attics to purge out items you can toss or donate
- Have adult children pick up any items/memories that belong to them
- Buy color coded labels so you can label your items and identify the boxes as you pack and move
- Begin packing seasonal items and areas of the house that are not in the common living space
- Host a garage sale if needed. The extra cash, and moving less items, will be beneficial in the long run.
- Get measurements of rooms in your new home so you can start planning what furniture you have that will/will not fit. No reason to move it, if it won't fit.
- Create a folder for moving related expenses and notes. Some expenses may be tax-deductible, as well as when things start to get hectic, you'll have one go-to folder for all your contact info and documents.

3-4 weeks out

- Contact insurance company to schedule transfer of home owners coverage
- Make a list of all the places you will need to contact to let them know that you will have a change of address (school, church, work, credit cards, magazine subscriptions, drivers license, newspaper delivery, etc). You may have to wait until closer to move date for some locations, but if you have a list, you won't forget any of the important places.
- Reserve movers for moving date (if using)
- Schedule utility and cable providers to turn on/off services
- Get additional insurance coverage if desired (needed) for the move of valuable items
- Schedule any service needs for repairs, updates, painters, etc, so they can get into the new home and make repairs before you arrive.
- Continue to pack boxes of items you don't use on a daily basis
- Make weekly trips to drop off goods you are donating. Don't take it with you if you don't ever use it.
- Be sure you've made updates/repairs to the home to comply with all the landlord or closing document requirements

2 weeks out

- Call friends or relatives to see if they can help on the day of the move
- Arrange for daycare for your children for the day of the move.
- Contact the Post Office to have your mail forwarded
- Begin cleaning rooms that have been emptied
- Plan meals to use remaining food items
- Contact landlord or realtor to confirm when you will pick up the keys.
- Continue to pack boxes everyday. Separate out valuables to be sure you keep track of them in the move.

1 week out

- Check secret hiding spots for items that are out of site (hidden keys, safes, hidden spaces in the attic, etc)
- Clean the new home (if able to get in). Wipe out cupboards, drawers, and closets.
- Plug in appliances at new home so they are ready when you arrive
- Mow the lawn one last time
- Pack final belongings
- Label furniture so movers know which room at the new home to put the items.
- Continue to clean areas of the current house as they are emptied

Day of Move

- Put the fragile items/boxes in a separate area so you are sure to move those yourself.
- Have plenty of water on hand for people helping
- Do final cleaning
- Post a list at the new home of what the labels on the boxes mean so that movers can put the boxes in the correct room. Saves time when unpacking and looking for items.
- Be sure to leave the proper keys, alarm codes, and garage door openers behind.
- Have payment ready for movers
- Unplug the fridge/defrost freezer
- Turn off all the lights and lock doors
- Take a picture of the family in front of the house for a final momento!

If you are making a long distance move, be sure to: notify and collect school records, transfer medical records, set up new bank accounts, take inventory of belongings if using professional movers, clear out storage units and safety deposit boxes, etc.

