

With some planning and organization, you can make your big move go off without a hitch.

You've done all the work to find a home, secure financing and close your loan. Now you're up to the exciting part—moving in! The to-do list can be daunting, but you can tackle all the tasks if you stay organized and follow a plan. Check out the timeline below to help you organize your tasks and make the move into your new home go smoothly.

8-12 WEEKS BEFORE YOU MOVE

- Contact moving companies.** If you will be hiring a mover, obtain quotes from at least three moving companies. To get an accurate estimate, ask for an on-site assessment. You may want to contact the Better Business Bureau to make sure they are reputable.
- Pare down and sort.** Donate, recycle or throw out what you don't want to move. Have a garage sale or post items to sell online to help make some extra money.
- Organize records.** Transfer school records; contact your insurance agent to update property, auto, medical and other insurance records.
- Start your own "moving manual".** Start a binder containing an inventory of your household items, moving estimates or other important receipts to keep information in one place.
- Start looking for new doctors, dentists, etc.** From doctors, dentists and veterinarians to banks and landscapers, it pays to investigate new service providers earlier rather than later.

4-6 WEEKS BEFORE YOU MOVE

- Order supplies and start packing.** Order boxes and other supplies such as tape, bubble wrap and markers. Consider special containers for dishes or clothing. Pack things you won't need first and make sure items are clearly labeled.
- Contact utilities, cable, etc.** Arrange to have services connected and disconnected now to avoid date/time conflicts or a lapse of service.
- Obtain change of address forms.** You can do this online at www.USPS.com or at your local post office.
- Schedule routine medical appointments.** Doctor, dentist and vet visits may be hard to schedule for a while, so try to get them out of the way before the move.
- Take measurements and map out.** Give advance thought and planning to where things will go in your new home. Make sure larger pieces of furniture will fit through the door.

- Make packing and unpacking plans.** Draw a diagram of where your furniture will go and determine what boxes will go where.
 - Arrange for pet care.** Make sure your pets are taken care of during the move and when you are unpacking.
 - Use up your food.** To avoid having to pack food and supplies, try to use it up beforehand.
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1-2 WEEKS BEFORE YOU MOVE

- Confirm details with the moving company.** Make sure you have their contact information and they have yours.
 - Organize key documents.** You should carry with you original passports, deeds, financial statements and other critical documents. Make copies of them as well.
 - Refill prescriptions.** Forward medical records if needed.
 - Gather keys/alarm codes/garage door openers.** Keep all of these in one easy place to hand over to new owners.
 - Confirm closing/move-in dates.** Reach out to your real estate agent and mover with final dates.
 - Clean out any safe deposit boxes.** Also be sure to separate and carry any valuables such as jewelry with you.
 - Car tune up.** If you are moving to a new location with a different climate, ask your mechanic what additional services you may need.
 - Arrange for tips/payment for movers.** Have cash on hand.
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MOVING DAY

- Make sure you have a moving day survival kit.** These are items you will need upon arrival at your new home for a few days until you have time to unpack the essentials.
 - Bottled water
 - Dishes or paper goods
 - Toiletries
 - Trash bags
 - Pet food
 - Toys for younger children
 - Clothing for a few days

- Check the moving inventory list and sign it.** You should also read the Bill of Lading carefully and sign it.
 - Do the walk-through with your real estate agent.** Be sure to ask for all appliance manuals/warranties and instruction booklets.
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Phew! Now that it's over, it's time to unpack and get settled!

Enjoy your new home!

NOTES AND REMINDERS