

Ultimate Moving House Checklist

A staged, step-by-step master timeline for a calm and organized relocation.

"A move without a plan turns into chaos by moving day. A move with a staged timeline feels calm, even when boxes are stacked to the ceiling."

8 WEEKS BEFORE MOVING (PLANNING STAGE)

- ☐ Create a moving binder or digital folder to hold every receipt, contract, and confirmation number.
- ☐ Research and gather formal quotes from at least three professional moving companies.
- ☐ Check your home insurance and moving insurance rules (standard policies often skip items in transit).
- ☐ Decide between a full-service moving company setup or a DIY move with a rental truck.
- ☐ Set a comprehensive moving budget, accounting for movers, packing materials, and travel costs.
- ☐ Start a dedicated folder for school records if you have children changing school districts.

Mark's Pro-Tip: A moving binder sounds old-fashioned, but it works. When a moving company calls to confirm your date, or your insurance company asks a question, you want everything in one place, not scattered across five email accounts.

6 WEEKS BEFORE MOVING (DECISIONS & DECLUTTERING)

- ☐ Book your chosen moving company officially or reserve your DIY rental moving truck.
- ☐ Host a garage sale or list unwanted furniture, decor, and large items online.
- ☐ Donate any items you decide not to sell to clear space.
- ☐ Research your new residential area: identify schools, doctors, and essential local services.
- ☐ Start collecting free moving boxes from local retail stores to minimize material costs.
- ☐ Double-check and confirm that your moving dates perfectly align with your closing date or lease end.

4 WEEKS BEFORE MOVING (PAPERWORK & UTILITIES)

- ☐ File your official change of address form with the postal service.
- ☐ Contact current and future utility providers (electricity, gas, water, internet) to schedule disconnect and connect dates.
- ☐ Pre-arrange internet and cable setups at your new home so services are active upon arrival.
- ☐ Transfer or cancel location-tied subscriptions (newspapers, meal kits, local gym memberships).
- ☐ Formally notify your bank, insurance company, and employer of your upcoming address change.
- ☐ Update your driver's license and vehicle registration (especially vital if moving to a new state).

- ☐ Confirm final enrollment records for your kids at their incoming school.

2 WEEKS BEFORE MOVING (FINAL STRETCH LOGISTICS)

- ☐ Confirm final arrival times, payment methods, and truck parking access with your movers.
- ☐ Start systematically running down your pantry and freezer items to minimize thrown-out food.
- ☐ Arrange dedicated childcare or pet care logistics for the actual moving day.
- ☐ Return all borrowed items to neighbors/friends and pick up items you lent out.
- ☐ Ensure your cardboard boxes, heavy tape, and packing materials are fully stocked.
- ☐ Take detailed photos of complex electronic wiring setups (TV backs, routers) before unplugging.
- ☐ Re-verify that your reserved moving truck dimensions fit the remaining pile of items.

1 WEEK BEFORE MOVING (FINAL PREPARATIONS)

- ☐ Defrost your refrigerator and freezer at least 24 hours prior to moving day so it is fully dry.
- ☐ Disconnect and prep major appliances safely according to manufacturer specs.
- ☐ Confirm physical access routes to the new home (keys, gate/garage codes, apartment elevator reservations).
- ☐ Withdraw and set aside cash tips for the moving crew.
- ☐ Keep all essential communication devices and emergency chargers fully powered.
- ☐ Conduct a final comprehensive sweep of the garage, attic, crawlspaces, and outdoor shed.
- ☐ Confirm the final closing walkthrough schedule with your real estate agent.

MOVING DAY (EXECUTION)

- ☐ Lay down floor runners or moving blankets in high-traffic zones to prevent scratches.
- ☐ Perform a rigorous physical walkthrough of every single room, closet, and cabinet before movers leave.
- ☐ Check the attic, garage, and exterior storage zones one final time.
- ☐ Take clear timestamped photos of utility meter readings before handing over the keys.
- ☐ Leave structural keys, garage clickers, and appliance manuals neatly on the counter for the new owners.
- ☐ Keep your master moving binder physically on your person—do not pack it in the truck.