

## Planning Your First Move

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- Decide your target moving date
- Schedule move-out inspection if required
- Create a master moving document or folder
- Write down all key moving dates in one place
- Save important contacts related to the move
- Create a digital or physical moving binder
- Determine whether the move is local or long distance
- Check building rules for move-in and move-out
- Confirm elevator reservation requirements if applicable
- Create a moving timeline
- Break the timeline into weekly milestones
- Identify which tasks must be completed early
- Identify tasks that can be completed closer to moving day
- Decide who will be involved in the move
- Set calendar reminders for key planning deadlines
- Review and adjust your plan one week before the move
- Create a backup moving date in case of delays

## Budgeting for Your First Move

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- Identify all moving-related expenses
- Separate one-time moving costs from ongoing housing costs
- Estimate transportation costs for the move
- Estimate packing supply costs
- Estimate deposits and upfront housing payments
- Estimate utility setup and activation fees
- Use our moving cost calculator to get a cost range
- Create a total estimated moving budget
- Add a 10–20 percent buffer for unexpected expenses
- Decide your maximum spending limit for the move
- Request cost estimates or price ranges from service providers
- Compare estimated costs across different moving options
- Identify areas where costs can be reduced
- Decide how the move will be funded
- Set aside funds specifically for moving expenses
- Create a simple budget tracking sheet or app
- Review your budget one week before the move
- Adjust budget based on updated estimates
- Confirm you can cover all required payments
- Keep emergency funds accessible

## Deciding How to Move

- Assess the distance of the move
- Assess the size of the move based on belongings
- Determine how much help will be available on moving day
- Decide between DIY, partial-service, or full-service moving
- Identify which tasks you want help with
- Decide whether you will pack yourself or hire packing help
- Research available moving options in your area
- Identify moving options suitable for long-distance moves if needed
- Make a shortlist of potential moving services
- Compare movers based on services offered
- Compare movers based on reviews and reliability
- Decide which moving option best fits your situation
- Finalize your preferred moving method
- Rule out options that do not meet your needs
- Confirm availability for your chosen moving option
- Document your final decision in your moving plan

## Preparing Before Moving Day

- Declutter belongings room by room
- Decide which items will be donated, sold, or discarded
- Schedule donation pickups or drop-offs
- Measure large furniture to confirm it fits in the new space
- Measure doorways, hallways, and elevators if needed
- Identify items that may require disassembly
- Gather important personal documents
- Create a secure place for documents and valuables
- Separate items that must travel with you
- Notify banks, employers, and service providers of upcoming address change
- Schedule mail forwarding through USPS
- Update delivery addresses for online services
- Prepare pets for the move if applicable
- Prepare plants for transport if applicable
- Empty, clean, and prepare appliances for moving
- Use up perishable food items
- Confirm moving date and arrival window
- Prepare move-out cleaning plan

## Packing for the First Time

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- Estimate box quantity using our moving box calculator
- Purchase or source boxes in required sizes
- Purchase packing tape, labels, and markers
- Gather protective packing materials
- Assign packing zones by room
- Create a packing order based on usage
- Pack items room by room
- Keep similar items together
- Wrap fragile items individually
- Cushion boxes to prevent shifting
- Mark fragile boxes clearly
- Pack heavy items in small boxes
- Label every box with room name and contents
- Add handling notes where necessary
- Number boxes if needed for tracking
- Pack seasonal and non-essential items first
- Pack daily-use items last
- Pack an essentials box for first-night needs
- Keep essentials and documents with you
- Do a final packing review room by room

## Moving Day

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- Wake up early and get dressed in comfortable clothing
- Eat a proper meal and stay hydrated
- Keep phone fully charged and charger accessible
- Keep essentials bag and important documents with you
- Set aside items that must not go on the truck
- Do a final walk through of the home
- Check closets, cabinets, drawers, and storage areas
- Confirm nothing is left behind
- Meet movers or helpers and review plan
- Point out fragile or high-priority items
- Supervise loading process
- Ensure heavy items are loaded safely
- Verify inventory or item list if provided
- Lock windows and doors before leaving
- Take photos of the empty space if required
- Travel to the new location
- Direct unloading to correct rooms
- Do a quick condition check of belongings
- Confirm move completion before movers leave

## After You Move In

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- Inspect the space for damages or issues
- Take photos of any existing damage
- Confirm electricity, water, gas, and internet are working
- Set up trash and recycling services
- Locate circuit breaker and water shut-off
- Unpack essential boxes first
- Set up sleeping area
- Set up bathroom essentials
- Set up basic kitchen items
- Begin unpacking room by room
- Organize belongings gradually
- Update address with USPS
- Update address with banks and insurance providers
- Update address with employer and subscriptions
- Familiarize yourself with the neighborhood
- Rest and recover after the move

## NOTES