

## Two months before the move

Years of experience has shown that planning a move two to three months in advance gives you enough time to comfortably get everything done without any "I can't believe I forgot to..." moments.

### **Research your moving options**

Hiring a moving company can make your move remarkably easy, but finding the right mover for the job can be a struggle. Companies like imove can help you find the most reliable local moving company, or you can do your own research thanks to sites like Yelp, Google reviews, and the BBB index. Of course, it always helps to ask friends and relatives for recommendations.

### **Make a moving binder**

Moving can produce a lot of paperwork, even if you're doing it all on your own. A moving checklist, a moving inventory, and any receipts related to your move are important to keep on hand. Creating a binder or folder to track all of the paperwork can save you time and energy as the move gets underway. Of course, there are plenty of moving apps for your phone or tablet too.

### **Set a moving budget**

Between supplies, help, and travel, moving expenses can add up. Plan for things like the cost of your mover and moving supplies. This will make your move more comfortable and less of a stressor. Look at everything you need to move--and when you need it moved--and gauge your budget accordingly. Many moving companies are happy to help you work with your budget too, if you need the help.

## One month before the move

At one month before your move things should start to feel busy, that's normal. It means that it's time to get going on all of the most important aspects of the move.

### **Hire a mover (or enlist help)**

If you haven't yet hired a moving company (or enlisted the help of friends or family) one month before your move, now's the time to do so. There's going to be a lot on your mind come moving day, the last thing you'll want to worry about is whether or not you have enough people to do the job.

### **Change your address**

Now's the ideal time to let not only family and friends know about your move, but also important businesses and subscriptions you may have. Submit a change of address to the Postal Service (you can even do it online: <https://moversguide.usps.com/>).

### **Cancel and update memberships**

Update or cancel gym, magazine, and other subscription memberships if you have them. You should also notify your doctor's office, your work, insurance company, and any other businesses or services that need to know your new address for billing purposes.

## Two or three weeks before the move

As your move gets closer, it's time to really get things underway. If you haven't already picked-up moving supplies (or checked that your moving company offers all of the supplies you'll need), picking them up now should be your primary goal.

### **Start packing big rooms first**

Whether you're moving yourself or using a moving company, you'll want to start cleaning up any large rooms (like attics or basements, garage, or storage closets). Getting the big rooms out of the way weeks before moving day will reduce your stress exponentially come moving day.

### **Clean and purge**

Two weeks before the big day you'll want to either have a yard sale to get rid of anything you don't use or want. Around this time you'll also want to dispose or give away of anything that is flammable, corrosive, or poisonous since you can't travel with those items.

### **Make arrangements for the move**

In the event of any long distance move, you'll want to figure out where you're going to be staying and what you'll be eating along the way. Look at your moving budget and begin to make arrangements now. If you're traveling with any pets make arrangements for them as well.

## One week before the move

One week away and it's time to get really serious about the move. Focus on the biggest aspect of the move during the first of the week: packing.

### **Pack, pack, pack**

Using a color-coded system of markers and colored packing tape, begin packing rooms one-by-one. It's also helpful to maintain a packing list so you can track every item you pack and ensure that when it comes time to unpack nothing is lost or forgotten.

### **Create an essentials box**

A lot of things are going to be in boxes for a while during (and sometimes slightly after) your move. Pack an "essentials" box with things that you know you'll either need during or right after your move.

### **Print an instruction sheet**

If you're using a moving company to help you with the move, now is the perfect time to write up and print out a moving instructions sheet. The document should contain your current address, new address, phone number, backup phone number, and any other necessary information that the moving company may need.

## Moving day!

At last the big day has arrived. Thanks to this moving timeline you should be comfortably on schedule and have less to do than you thought you would one month ago. So let's get to it!

### **Get copies of all documents**

When the moving company arrives the first thing you should do is verify that they're the right movers. You can do this by confirming the numbers on your initial quote with the ones on the contract the movers present. You'll then want to get a copy of all shipping documents. Doing so will help you ensure nothing gets lost, but also that — in the event something does go missing — insurance can cover it.

### **Supervise all activity**

Help to supervise movers in each room, identifying large items that might need to be professional packed or anything that will need to be tied down. You'll also want to be available as a supervisor to double check rooms as they're emptied.

### **Do a final walk-through**

Once the moving truck has been loaded and is on its way, you'll want to do one or two more final walkthroughs of the house to ensure nothing has been left behind. You'll also want to check that everything is in an ideal condition for the next resident.