

Moving Checklist

[Not all items on this list will apply to you. If you're moving across town, you probably won't have to transfer your kids to a new school, get references for a new job, or have your car serviced for travel. So just focus on the applicable items.]

I. Two Weeks Before Moving

- Check with your children's new school about what records and transcripts it will need; arrange for their transfer.
- Close or transfer bank and safe deposit box accounts.
- Cancel deliveries—newspaper, diapers, laundry.
- Cancel utilities—gas, electric, cable, phone, water, garbage; transfer services (if possible) or arrange new services; request deposit refunds.
- Get recommendations or find in advance (especially if a medical condition needs regular attention) new doctors, dentist, and veterinarian. If possible, photocopy important medical records to have with you.
- Get reference letters if you'll need to find a job.
- Cancel membership (or transfer membership, if relevant) in religious, civic, and athletic organizations.
- Have car serviced for travel.
- Arrange to move pets.
- Finalize arrangements with moving company. (You should have gotten bids and made preliminary arrangements weeks earlier.)
- Tell close friends and relatives your schedule.

II. Things to Remember While Packing

- Before you pack, take the time to do a good inventory and sort through things. This way you can move less and won't end up throwing things away at your new home (or taking up unnecessary storage space).
- Label boxes on top and side—your name, new city, room of house, and contents.
- Pack phone books.
- Assemble moving kit—hammer, screwdriver, pliers, tape, nails, tape measure, scissors, flashlight, cleansers, cleaning cloths, rubber gloves, garbage bags, light bulbs, and extension cords. If you're driving to your new home, pack a broom and pail in your car. Larger items that are handy when moving in, such as a step stool or vacuum cleaner, should go in the moving van, unless your new house is nearby and you're moving lots of things by car.
- Keep the basics handy—comfortable clothes, toiletries, towels, alarm clock, disposable plates, cups and utensils, can opener, one pot, one pan, sponge, paper towels, toilet paper, plastic containers, and toys for kids.

Consider carrying jewelry, extremely fragile items, currency, and important documents.

Make other arrangements if moving company won't move antiques, art collections, crystal, other valuables, or plants.

III. To Whom to Send Change of Addresses

Friends and relatives

Subscriptions

Government agencies you regularly deal with—Veteran's Administration, IRS, Social Security Administration, etc.

Charge and credit accounts

Installment debt—such as student loan or car loan

Frequent flyer programs

Brokers and mutual funds

Insurance agent/companies

Medical providers—if you'll be able to use them after moving

Catalogues you want to keep receiving

Charities you wish to continue donating to

Post office (If you're trying to get off of catalogue and other direct mailing lists, have only first-class mail forwarded. Give your new address to those catalogue companies on whose lists you want to remain, and don't forget to tell them not to trade or sell your name.)

IV. Things to Do After Moving In

Open bank accounts.

Open safe deposit box account.

Begin deliveries—oil, newspaper, diapers, laundry.

Register to vote.

Change (or get new) driver's license.

Change auto registration.

Install new batteries in existing smoke detectors (and install any additionally needed smoke detectors); buy fire extinguisher.

Hold party for the people who helped you find your house and your moving helpers, and take yourself out for a congratulatory dinner!