# Moving Checklist For Apartment Renters

## 2 Months Before
- **Create a moving binder.**
  Use it to keep track of everything move-related — there will be a lot. This checklist, for instance, should be in the front of your binder.

- **Research and gather quotes from moving companies.**
  Or, alternately, begin researching truck rental companies.

- **Start packing your first (small) box.**
  This box will not be packed or shipped with the others, but will stay with you throughout the move. It will contain your important documents — passport, will, deed, etc. Begin gathering these documents early so you can identify any missing items. This box could also contain small valuables.

- **Back up your files.**
  Before you pack your computer and its peripherals, make a backup of important files and family photos on a disk or flash drive that you can carry with you (maybe in that box mentioned above) during the move.

- **Decide what to sell or donate.**
  Sell items online or through a garage sale.

- **Create a room-by-room inventory**
  Take inventory of items in each room throughout the house.

## 1 Month Before
- **Decide on a moving company.**
  Get a written contract that includes your moving date and costs.

- **Buy packing supplies.**
  Boxes, tape, packing paper, etc. Cover your bases with our list of packing essentials.

- **Use the food that can’t move with you.**
  Your freezer should be clear about a week before the move. Take this time to dig into the back of your pantry, as well. Use it or get rid of it.

- **Plan your new home.**
  If you have the room dimensions at the new place, start planning how to arrange your furniture.

- **Care for your car.**
  Take it into a trusted mechanic and ask what services might be needed for a long-distance drive or a move to a new climate. Contact your car insurance company to update the address on your policy.

- **Contact your internet, TV, and utilities providers.**
  Set your disconnect date. Begin researching which providers you’ll use at your destination and schedule connection of your services.

- **Fill any prescriptions.**
  Ask for doctor/pharmacist recommendations in your new area, and consider obtaining copies of your medical records.

- **Make travel arrangements.**
  If necessary, book your flight, hotel, rental car, etc. If you’re driving long-distance, plan your route and stops.

## 2 Weeks Before
- **Change your address.**
  Head to the post office website. Be sure to have your mail forwarded from the old place to the new.

- **Cancel or redirect deliveries and subscriptions.**

- **Confirm dates with relevant parties:**
  - Real estate agent(s)
  - Moving company or truck rental
  - Storage Unit

- **Begin Packing!**
  Pack one room per day, as much as possible. Move any leftover items (excluding furniture) to a centralized location. Schedule enough time to have the packing done at least 2 days before your move date.

## Moving Day
- **Have specific information for your movers.**
  Contact information, address of the new place, and maps for getting there.

- **Make sure the right truck shows up.**
  It should have a USDOT number printed on the side that matches the number on the contract you signed.

- **Sign the movers’ bill of lading/inventory list.**
  Be sure to keep a copy for yourself.

- **Tip your movers!**
  A standard tip is $20-25.

## After Arrival
- **Check your utilities.**
  Make sure everything is working properly.

- **Take plenty of pictures.**
  If there is damage anywhere, these pictures will come in handy. This is vital if you’re a renter.

- **Change the locks.**
  Be sure to ask your landlord’s permission. If you get it, give him or her a copy of the key.

- **Plan your housewarming party.**
  If you have family or friends in the area, invite them. But this is more for getting to know your neighbors than anything else.

## 1 Week Before
- **Begin cleaning empty rooms.**
  How well you clean can mean the difference between all, some, or none of your deposit being returned.

- **Pack suitcases.**
  Have one for everyone in the family to live out of for a few days as you complete packing everything in the house.

- **Collect all keys.**
  They will need to be handed over to the landlord.