

## 2 Months Before

- **Create a moving binder.**  
This will be invaluable as you get organized for your move. The more organized your move, the less stressful it will be. Promise.
- **Start packing your first box.**  
Keep your vital documents and small valuables here, separate from other household items.
- **Back up your files.**  
Before packing up your computer (in the coming weeks), back up your files and photos. Keep the backups in the box mentioned above. Your files will probably be fine, but it's not a risk worth taking.
- **Research and gather quotes from moving companies.**  
If you're planning to rent a moving truck, begin looking into rates.
- **Create a room-by-room inventory of items throughout the house.**  
It's not as tough as you think, and has benefits beyond moving day.
- **Sell or donate what you don't need.**  
Hold a garage sale, or sell your stuff online.

## 1 Month Before

- **Decide on a moving company.**  
Whether you're using movers or renting a truck, it's time to either sign the contract or make the reservation.
- **Buy packing supplies.**  
Having enough of the right packing supplies can make your move much easier.
- **Plan your new home**  
Measure your furniture, get the room dimensions in your new home, and start planning how you'll make it your own.
- **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.**  
A long-distance drive or a new climate are both good reasons to check with your mechanic if there are any tune-ups or changes to make before you head out.
- **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.**  
Be sure you'll have enough to get you to your destination, with extra time to search for a new doctor and pharmacy. Now is a good time to get shot 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.**  
Let the post office, your insurance provider, and your bank know about your new address. Cancel or redirect scheduled deliveries and subscriptions.
- **Confirm dates with relevant parties:**
  - Real estate agent(s)
  - Landlord for move-in/move-out.
  - Moving company or truck rental
  - Storage Unit
- **Begin Packing!**  
Be sure to create a packing list to keep in your moving binder. Schedule enough time to have the packing done at least two days before your move date.

## Moving Day

- **Check the truck**  
If you hired movers, check the USDOT number on the side. It should match the number on the contract you signed.
- **Have specific information for your movers.**  
Contact information, address of the new place, and maps for getting there.
- **Sign the movers' inventory list.**  
Make sure they provide you with a copy. This record of what they're moving ensures that nothing "disappears" en
- **Final walkthrough.**  
Double-check every room to make sure no damage occurred during the loading process.

## 1 Week Before

- **Begin cleaning empty rooms.**  
Even if you're not working to get a security deposit back, you should do a thorough clean.
- **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 and garage door openers.**  
They will need to be handed over to the real estate agent or new owners.
- **Schedule a final walkthrough of your new home.**

## After Arrival

- **Set up your security.**  
As soon as possible, make sure your family and belongings are protected.
- **Check your utilities.**  
Water, lights, plumbing: make sure it's all working properly.
- **Change the locks, if possible.**
- **Get to know your HOA.**  
Make sure you know what yours requires, and more importantly, what it can do for you.
- **Plan your housewarming party.**  
This is a good way to start getting to know your neighbors, which is essential.