

Moving Tips

Are you ready to move? Preparation is the key to any move. Below are a few tips and checklists that can make the process of moving easier.



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Congratulations on the purchase of your new home! Are you ready for the next challenge: moving?

This is a great time to carefully weed through your possessions and to dispose of any clothes, furniture and fixtures that you no longer want or need. Donate them to a charity, hold a garage sale – but if you don't want them anymore, don't move them.

Are you going to pack yourself or hire professionals?

If you're doing your own packing, following is a list of materials you'll need. Moving companies and overnight mail businesses can furnish these, as well as specialized items including wardrobe boxes for clothing and heavy-duty boxes for china and other breakables. Liquor and computer stores also are good sources for sturdy boxes.

You should start collecting the following materials:

- Boxes of all sizes
- Plastic bags
- Non-shredded newspapers
- Packing tape
- Markers
- Bubble wrap

Packing 101 – A few guidelines:

- Cushion the bottom and sides of boxes first
- Packed items should not exceed 30 pounds
- When packing, go room by room – it will make unpacking easier
- Begin your packing as early in the moving process as you can – it will take longer than you think at a time when you'll be busy with many other concerns
- Label all boxes by item and where in your new home they should be placed
- Pack heavy items in smaller boxes and lighter items in larger boxes
- Thoroughly wrap your breakables in newsprint paper, paper towels or clothing, placing them in dresser drawers, containers with lids, large cans, etc.
- Fill your refrigerator and washer and dryer with clothes, linens and other light objects
- Tape cords underneath all electrical appliances
- Don't tape furniture, doors and drawers, as tape can cause damage; instead, use rope, elastic or long strips of fabric to secure furniture
- If you have children, let them feel they are a part of the process by helping them pack their toys

On moving day...

Fill one box with moving-day essentials like paper plates, a coffee maker and coffee, hand tools and extension cords, a bucket, rags, soaps and paper towels. You may also want to set aside a few days' worth of clothing, food and other essentials you'll need prior to arriving at your new home and prior to unpacking.

We find that many families use a change of residence as an opportunity to dispose of many outgrown and no-longer-wanted items. It beats taking the items with you and can even put several hundred dollars in your pocket toward buying furnishings for your new home.

As Realtors[®], we are expected to be wise in all matters relating to a change of residence. Even though garage sales are far from our primary field of expertise, allow us to pass on the best advice we have picked up over the years.

Planning

Allow plenty of time – three to four weeks – to prepare. Choose a date that will not conflict with holidays or other events that might lure prospective customers away. More people are likely to show up on weekends than weekdays. Your sale is likely to attract more customers if you join together with neighbors in a larger effort with more merchandise – some homeowner groups sponsor neighborhood sales that are proving popular.

What to Sell

Practical household goods, bicycles, children's toys and clothes, sports equipment and garden tools are popular. Adult clothing has less appeal – price accordingly. All items should be clean, polished and in good repair.

Display

Merchandise your items attractively in neat, clean surroundings. Paper tablecloths offer a pretty setting for glass and ornamental items. Cluster things in categories. Place more desirable items toward the back so browsers can notice other merchandise on their way to the most popular items. Have a 25-cent miscellaneous table for young shoppers. Clothes should be sized accurately and hung on a temporary rack.

Logistics

Locate your appliance table near an outlet so customers may try before they buy. Set aside adequate parking and a place to load large items. Have plenty of bags and boxes on hand for packing and newspapers for wrapping glass items. Ideally, a place for trying on clothing should be provided.

Promotion

Place a classified ad in the local papers – include three or four of the more tantalizing items for sale, directions and other pertinent details (you may or may not want to include your phone number). Take advantage of free publicity provided by bulletin boards in grocery stores and other public places. Provide directional signs to your property using an indelible pen. If your house is listed for sale, have your Realtor® hold an open house on the same day, thus increasing traffic for both the house and the sale.

Pricing

Visit other sales to get an idea on how to price things. Remember that garage sale shoppers are looking for deals, so be prepared to bargain and lower your prices. Really valuable items such as antiques should not be sold at a garage sale; they are not likely to bring the desired price from bargain hunters. Nothing is too worthless to be valuable to someone, so have a giveaway box for old magazines and other assorted odds and ends.

Staging

Post a notice that all sales are final and payment must be in cash. Keep ample change in a cash box in a protected spot. Keep a record of sales, especially when there are several sellers. One recording method that is simple and efficient is to use small adhesive stickers to price items, then transfer the sticker to the name of the seller when the item is sold.



8 weeks prior:

- Remove unnecessary items from your attic, storage shed, etc.
- Use things you can't move, such as frozen foods and cleaning supplies
- Start a possessions inventory
- Solicit estimates from three moving companies
- Call your homeowners insurance agent to find out how your policy will cover your move
- Begin collecting all moving papers and receipts in a file folder
- Arrange to transfer your children's school records

6 weeks prior:

- Contact the IRS and/or your CPA for tax-deductible information
- Evaluate your possessions inventory: Can you donate anything? Do you need it all?
- Notify your friends, relatives, professionals, creditors, subscriptions, etc.
- Locate healthcare professionals and hospitals in your new location
- Clean your closets
- Hold a moving or garage sale or donate items to charities
- Choose a mover or decide to move yourself
- Contact your mover to ask about insurance
- Complete change of address cards via the post office, or using online services, to include the following:
 - Banks
 - Charge cards
 - Religious organizations
 - Doctor/dentist
 - Relatives and friends
 - Income tax bureau/Social Security Administration
 - Insurance broker/lawyer/CPA/stockbroker
 - Magazines
 - Post office
 - Schools

4 weeks prior:

___ Send furniture, drapes and carpets for repair/cleaning as needed

___ Gather auto licensing and registration documents, medical, dental and school records, birth certificates, wills, deeds, stock and other financial documentation

___ Contact gas, electric, oil, water, telephone, cable television and trash collection companies for service disconnection and connection at your old and new addresses. Also ask for final readings

___ Request refunds on unused homeowner's insurance, security deposit with landlord and prepaid cable service

___ Notify your gardener, if applicable

___ Contact insurance companies (auto, homeowner's, medical and life) to arrange for coverage in your new home 3 weeks prior;

___ Make your travel plans, if applicable

___ Arrange to close current bank accounts and open accounts in new locale, if necessary

___ Notify the Department of Motor Vehicles of your new address

___ Arrange for childcare on moving day

2 weeks prior:

- ___ Arrange for special transport for your pets and plants
- ___ Service your car for the trip
- ___ Contact your moving company and review arrangements for your move

On Moving Day:

- ___ Carry enough cash or traveler's checks to cover cost of moving services and expenses until you make banking connections in new city, or keep with you an ATM card
- ___ Carry jewelry and important documents yourself, or use registered mail
- ___ Plan for transporting of pets
- ___ Double-check closets, drawers, shelves to be sure they are empty
- ___ Leave old keys, garage door openers and instruction manuals needed by new owner



At your new address:

___ Obtain certified checks or cashier's checks necessary for closing real estate transaction (check with title company transaction coordinator for details)

___ Check on service of telephone, gas, electricity, water and garbage

___ Check pilot light on stove, water heater and furnace

___ Ask mail delivery person for mail he/she may be holding for your arrival

___ Have new address recorded on driver's license and car registration

___ Visit city offices and register for voting

___ Register children in school



Name	Date End of Service	Date Start of Service	Comments
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Gas

Electric

Water

Security System

Home Insurance

Auto Insurance

Medical Insurance

Telephone

Cable/TV

Wireless

Schools

Dept. of Motor Vehicle

Bank

Doctors/Dentist

Credit Card

Newspapers

Protect your Move: <https://www.protectyourmove.gov>

Contact the real estate agent who goes above and beyond - Martine Bonhoure

Go to www.realestatenoco.com
email: martine@realestatenoco.com
call 970-443-1781.

