

The Ultimate Moving Checklist

Redi-Box.com



Moving can be a hugely stressful event. In addition to going to a new location, there is so much to think about! So many things to do, so many people to contact, so many items to be packed.

One thing that can massively simplify the process is making a list. Lists bring everything together in a simple, easy to follow process. To save you time, we created the ultimate moving checklist for you. Each of the items below is a question you need to answer. Once you've answered the question, you can move on to the next one. We've arranged it by descending order, starting with the things you need to do two months prior to your move and ending one week after your move.

60 Days Prior To Move

- ☐ Have you gotten quotes from at least three moving companies?
- ☐ Will they come to your home and estimate so that your quote is accurate?
- ☐ Have you talked to family and friends to ensure that these companies are reliable?
- ☐ Have you read reviews of the companies online?
- ☐ Have you determined how much packing supplies you need? Do you have a specified spot to store all your packing materials so that you don't need to hunt for them?
- ☐ Have you researched your new community to prepare you for the move?
- ☐ Do you know which schools are the best?
- ☐ Do you know what restaurants there are?
- ☐ Do you know what grocery stores are close to your new home?
- ☐ Do you have people to drive your cars to your new home?
- ☐ Have you had all your expensive items appraised so that they can be properly insured prior to your move?
- ☐ Is your move related to your job? If so, have you researched your company's moving policy? Are any subsidies available for moving costs?



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60 Days Prior To Move (continued)

- ___ Have you gotten rid of all unnecessary items either by a yard sale, recycling, or simple purge?
- ___ Do you have a record of all the items in your household (your phone makes it easy to record a video or snap photos)?
- ___ Have you transferred all your insurance policies to your new address (this includes your medical, property, auto and fire insurance)?
- ___ Do you have a designated folder where all expenses related to the move can be recorded and stored (moving expenses are tax-deductible, which means you'll want to keep all the records in a single location)?
- ___ Have you notified old schools regarding your move?
- ___ Have you transferred records to the new schools?
- ___ Have you registered at new schools?
- ___ Have you alerted all your doctors and dentists regarding your move?
- ___ Do you have medical referrals for your new community?
- ___ Have you obtained all necessary medical records that you'll need in your new location?
- ___ Have you transferred all necessary membership associations to your new community?
- ___ Have you arranged for family members and pets to be transported to your new location?
- ___ If flying, have you purchased tickets?
- ___ Have you reserved hotel rooms (if necessary)?
- ___ Do you have referrals for veterinarians in your new community?

30 Days Before You Move

- ___ Rent plastic moving boxes and supplies to make your move easier and quicker.
- ___ Have you hired a mover yet?
- ___ Have you confirmed all the necessary details with the mover?
- ___ Have you begun any packing that you are personally responsible for?
- ___ Have you disconnected your internet, cable, electric, and any other services?
- ___ Have you arranged for these services at your new location?
- ___ Have you started planning the layout of your new home, including where all items will be going?
- ___ Have you created a complete inventory of all things that will be moved (this inventory will be compared against the inventory of the moving company)?
- ___ Have you arranged for child care on the day of your move? If not, do you have a place for your children to be so that they will be out of the way of the movers?
- ___ Do you have an unpacking plan for the movers (they will not rearrange furniture once they have unpacked it)?
- ___ Have you obtained a change of address form from the Post Office?
- ___ Have you alerted the following to your change of address: schools, banks, friends and family, doctors, insurance companies, cell phone companies, credit card companies, and magazine and newspaper subscriptions?
- ___ If you need to switch banks, do you have referrals?
- ___ Do you need to get a new driver's license when you move?
- ___ Do you need to complete an auto registration at your new location?
- ___ If your move is international, have you updated your passport as necessary (this usually takes a minimum of 3 weeks so be sure to do this on time)?
- ___ Have you alerted all service providers, such as landscapers and cleaning services, that you're moving?
- ___ Have you had final check-ups and dental visits prior to your move (this will greatly simplify things when you arrive in your new community since it can take a significant amount of time to find the right medical professionals)
- ___ Do you have contact information for the friends of your children so they can keep in touch when they move?
- ___ Is your car ready for the move?

14 Days Before You Move

- ___ Have you cleaned all rooms that have already been packed?
- ___ If packing yourself, have you ensured that nothing has been left behind in rooms?
- ___ Have you prepared all your plants for the move?
- ___ Have you made the necessary arrangements to have your new house cleaned prior to your arrival (this will greatly simplify your arrival)?
- ___ Have you found pharmacies in your new location that all prescriptions can be transferred to?
- ___ Do you have enough medication to hold you over until all prescriptions have been transferred?
- ___ Have you made copies of important documents such as your will, financial statements, and deeds?
- ___ Have you secured transportation for your pet?
- ___ Are all shots for your pets up to date?
- ___ Have you packed valuable items, such as jewelry, separately so that it's not lost and is protected?
- ___ Have you returned all borrowed items, such as library books and videos, to their respective locations?

One Week Before You Move

- ___ Pack your plastic moving boxes by room and label which room the boxes will be moved into.
- ___ Have all items been labeled appropriately (fragile, do not load, load last, etc.)?
- ___ Have you confirmed all details with your mover?
- ___ Have you made special arrangements for large items such as a piano?
- ___ Have you arranged for payment with the mover?
- ___ Do you have the usual \$25 per mover tip on hand?
- ___ Have you confirmed all dates (closing date, move in date, etc.) with your real estate agent?
- ___ Do you have a backup plan if the movers are running behind?
- ___ Have you properly stored your computer and other sensitive electronic items to protect them against extreme elements?
- ___ Have you disposed of toxic substances such as paint, oil, weed killers, and fuel?
- ___ Have you drained fuel out of lawn maintenance equipment?
- ___ Have you discarded all propane from grills?
- ___ Have you opened a new bank account in your new location?
- ___ Have you updated all address information with your current bank?
- ___ Have you gathered all house keys, alarm codes, and garage door openers so that they can be given to your new owner or real estate agent?
- ___ Have you prepared your children for the move?
- ___ Have you emptied all the lockers school, work, and the gym?
- ___ Have you prepared simple meals that will be easy to prepare when you move and arrive?
- ___ Do you have food ready for the drive or flight?
- ___ If you will be eating on the road, do you know where you want to eat?

On Moving Day

- ___ Have you put together a moving date kit with all the items you'll need when you arrive at your new home (the kit should include toilet paper, snacks, bottled water, toiletries, dishes, and necessary clothes).
- ___ Do you the necessary items if the movers are late or running behind?
- ___ Have you prepared all the necessary information for the movers, such as phone numbers, the address of your new location, and any necessary directions?
- ___ Have you sign the inventory list prepared by the movers?
- ___ Do you have the contact information of the moving company?
- ___ Have you prepared a layout for the movers to follow in your new home?
- ___ Have you prepared your new home as much as possible to prevent damage by the movers?
- ___ Have you cleaned your old home as much as necessary?
- ___ Have you packed food and litter for your pets?
- ___ Do you have cash on hand?
- ___ Are all your utilities hooked up at your new location?
- ___ Have you done a walkthrough at your new location with your realtor?
- ___ Have you emptied and defrosted your refrigerator and freezer?
- ___ Have you notified local police that your house could be unoccupied for a significant amount of time?
- ___ Have you discarded all trash properly?

One Week After You Move

- ___ Unpack your moving boxes by room and confirm pick up date of your moving boxes with your plastic moving box company
- ___ Did you get your moving deposits back?
- ___ Do you have fire extinguishers and smoke detectors in your new home?
- ___ Are there any quick repairs that need to be done before a room is filled with items?
- ___ Have you started to get acquainted with your new location?
- ___ Have you replaced all the locks on your new home if you feel it is necessary?
- ___ Have you gotten all necessary licenses for your pets?
- ___ Have you updated all necessary addresses such as voter registration, driver's license, tax forms, and your bank account?



Moving on a Budget: 10 Tips to Move Cheaply

(lifestorage.com) by Lauren Thomann



Do you know how to move cheaply? These money-conscious moving tips will help you move on a budget regardless of distance.

Not many of us are lucky enough to move for free. For most of us, moving expenses add up fast, which can lead to unnecessary stress when money is tight. We're experts at keeping spending in check and can help you move on a budget without compromising your sanity.

These ten moving tips will address some effective ways to move cheaply. Before you dive into these practical ways to save money, create a moving checklist that you can edit and trim as you continue to plan for your move.

1. Declutter your home and sell the excess.

Did you know that you can make money when moving? Start by gathering some unneeded items that are still valuable enough to sell. Consider if these items are worth the time, cost and headache to move. If not, sell them and pocket the cash for moving expenses.

Some decisions are easier than others, like selling the television set that no one uses anymore. Then, there are more difficult judgment calls. You may love the piano you grew up learning to play on, but if you rarely spend time playing it, it may make sense to sell it to a home that can enjoy it.

Once you've made a mental note of all the items you're not going to be packing, it's time to figure out how you're going to get rid of these pieces and make the most money on them possible.

How to get rid of unnecessary belongings:

- Have a garage sale or estate sale
- Sell online using apps like Wallapop or OfferUp
- List items on a neighborhood Facebook community or a site like Nextdoor
- Barter – an excellent way to settle odds with family and friends!

2. Donate bulky items you can't sell.

It's essential to have an itemized receipt so you can write off the donation on your income taxes.

Take what you can't sell and donate it. Thrift shops are ideal for quick and effortless donating. Some shops even have drive-up garage access. You drive through the doors into an enclosed hallway, unload your items, and someone will be waiting there to give you a receipt.

In order for a donation to potentially save you money, request an itemized receipt, so you can write off the donation on your income taxes.

3. Reuse cheap or free packing materials.

Packing materials can be costly. Instead of buying an oversized roll of bubble wrap, try to use household items as packing material for household goods.

How to save money on packing supplies:

- Socks can be used to wrap glassware.
- Kitchen towels are a great way to separate plates.
- Leverage original packaging to transfer what originally came in them, or find a way to use these old boxes to protect finer goods.
- Avoid buying moving boxes altogether. Try sites like Craigslist to search for people who are willing to give them away.

4. Measure access points before moving.

We've all heard stories of the sectional couch that couldn't quite make it through the doorway. Or a king size bed that won't make it up the stairs in a cape cod. Don't make the mistake of eye-balling size.

Make sure to measure your larger fixtures – tables, sofas, custom pieces, etc. – and evaluate how they will fit into your new footprint.

A straightforward way to do this is to measure dimensions of each room in your new living space and consider the width and heights of door frames, stairwells and hallways. Live too far away to do this? See if your new landlord or current seller can give you this information in advance.

A straightforward way to do this is to measure dimensions of each room in your new living space and consider the width and heights of door frames, stairwells and hallways. Live too far away to do this? See if your new landlord or current seller can give you this information in advance.

Once you determine what won't fit, the easier it will be to determine what has to go and what can stay.



5. Don't overbuy for your new home.

This trick to moving on a budget is a mental one. You're going to need to freeze spending, even when it's tempting not want to spend. It's easy to start clicking "Add to Cart" for everything you see on Wayfair, but reign in the emotional spending and hold that mouse. To stay on track, commit to a spending hiatus while in the middle of a move.

Remember:

- One way to save money while moving is to strive to buy only what you need at your new place.
- Resist mentally decorating your new space until you're actually in it.
- It's common to be more impulsive with spending in the short-term because you might start to visualize what you think you need in each room.
- The less you buy now, the more money you'll save and the less you'll have to move on moving day.

6. Ask your company for reimbursement.

If your company won't compensate you, your moving expenses may be tax-deductible if you're in the military.

Before you accept that job offer in another state, ask your company if they will pay for moving expenses or offer compensation for relocation. You'd be surprised how much some companies are willing to reimburse.

If your company doesn't compensate you at all, then your moving expenses might be tax-deductible if you are in the military. Talk to your accountant or tax advisor to see if you are eligible for a write-off.

7. Decide if you should spend money on movers.

Recruiting either friends or movers is always one of the most significant decisions you will make when moving on a budget. While you may be quick to bribe your friends with pizza and beer, it's sometimes better to call the professionals.



Ask these questions before hiring movers:

- Are your friends capable of moving heavy furniture?
- How much do I have to move?
- Am I moving far away or relocating?
- How much money will I save by asking friends?
- Do I have any valuable furniture pieces to move?
- Do I have a piano, pool table or otherwise complicated pieces to move?

Movers come with a cost, but they can save you a lot of headaches with speediness and efficiency.

8. Don't move during the busy season.

While this may be out of your control, try to avoid moving during the peak season (May through September). Not only are off-season rates lower, but you will have an easier time scheduling the move.

9. Shop around for better prices.

Seek out new cable or satellite providers that offer a 12-month special for movers like you.

If you're moving on a budget, figure out as many ways as possible to cut your monthly spending, even if it's just temporarily. Moving to a new place is the perfect opportunity to seek out new cable or satellite providers that offer a 12-month special.

Be suspicious of any deal that seems too good to be true, but seek out new cable or satellite providers that offer a 12-month special for movers like you. You'll need to know how much the plan will cost after the special expires and what the terms of the contract are to compare offers against each other.

In the period before you move, consider canceling TV or Internet services early. Surviving on your phone's Wi-Fi – if possible – can help out your budget before you even begin to pack.

10. Use self-storage when in a pinch.

If your move is temporary or you have a gap between when you need to leave your old place and when your new home is ready, renting a self-storage unit may be your only option.



About the Author

Lauren Thomann has written about self storage and moving since 2015, making her our storage expert. She earned a Bachelor's degree in English and Linguistics and has published over 150 articles on moving, storage, and home organization. She is also a contributing writer at The Spruce and Martha Stewart.

Moving Guide for Single Parents

MyMove.com

Moving is often a complicated process for anyone, but when you're raising children on your own, it can really get tough.

You'll have one less set of hands for packing and lifting, and also be stuck making decisions on your own – like whether to hire movers or just rent a truck yourself. This guide can help make some of those decisions easier and help you tackle some of the unique issues that arise when moving with children.

You will also find printable checklists to keep you organized along the way. Use one or all of them to aid in planning, packing, picking a mover, loading the truck, and covering all your bases after the move. And check out the money-saving tips section for ways to make your move in a single-income household.

Some popular parenting bloggers have also joined us to provide some tips to make your life just a little easier during this hectic time.



Planning Your Move

Once you know you're definitely moving, it's time to get organized. Moving preparation starts long before you start packing boxes. From sorting your belongings and selling what you no longer need to turning off the phone and internet before you leave, there's a long list of things you'll need to take care of.

Sometimes a new job can demand a quick turnaround, but ideally you'd want at least a couple of months to plan your move.

GoodCall® created a checklist that should help you get your move in order.

Prepare the Kids

One of the hardest parts of moving with children is changing schools. Many people try to avoid moving in the middle of the school year, or maybe even put off moving until after their child has graduated. But often that's just not an option.

The good news is it's easier today for kids on the move to stay in touch with old friends – especially those in middle or high school with smartphones and social media accounts. Even if you're moving to another country, your child can stay in contact with their friends through Snapchat, FaceTime, Skype, video games, or any number of messaging apps.

Talk to your kids about moving as soon as you know it's going to happen. They can probably tell if you're trying to keep a secret from them, and that will just make the move seem like a more negative change. Be prepared to answer questions, especially about their new school and whether they'll be able to keep doing their favorite activities, such as sports teams or ballet classes.

Children of different ages and maturity levels will probably react differently. Some teens find it especially difficult to leave the friends they've been in school with for nearly 10 years; others are mature enough to understand how important a new job is for the whole family.

There are also some things you'll want to take care of before and after the move to make the transition simple for your kids.

- Research schools and/or daycares in the area. Pay attention to school boundary lines; even if your house is closer to one school, it might not be the one your kids will attend.
- For charter or magnet schools, look for information about registration or lottery deadlines – it might already be too late for the next school year.
- Get copies of your child's school and vaccine records, and if possible, contact the new school before your move to find out about any special requirements. The district may require different vaccinations, and certain courses may not transfer as expected.
- Discuss how the move might affect your living arrangements. Will siblings be forced to share a room, or get their own space? What about bathrooms?
- Will the move affect how often you see relatives, like your child's other parent or grandparents? Talk about this and try to develop a plan for visits.
- If you're moving in the middle of the school year, tell your child's teachers about the upcoming move so they can watch for any unusual behaviors and help you prepare their student records.
- Find out if any after-school activities require early enrollment or summer practice attendance.
- Try to arrange a visit to the school before your child's first day to help with anxiety or nerves – especially for younger children who might be afraid of a new place.
- Even if you're worried about your child's ability to keep up with school work in the transition, don't express that. Instead, provide encouragement and confidence that he or she can do it.

The Moving Truck

When you're single, you likely have one less set of hands – and one less paycheck – to help with the actual move. Don't be afraid to call on friends or family. You don't have to go it alone.

Even if you aren't comfortable asking your friends or older parents to help you lift your furniture, look for other ways they can help. Could your sister babysit for a couple of nights to get the kids out of the house while you do some uninterrupted packing? Maybe your well-organized friend could help you set up a yard sale.

Sooner, rather than later, you'll need to figure out how you'll get your stuff to your new place. You have a few options:

- Full service. If your new job affords a moving allowance, you might want to make your move easy with a full-service moving company. Those will pack, ship, and unpack your belongings, leaving you time to deal with the other hassles of moving, like making sure your kids have their coats and shoes on and tied.



- If your budget doesn't allow a full-service company, or you're more comfortable handling your own things, you could instead consider the option to do it all yourself. In that case you'd rent a moving truck, pack it, drive it yourself, unpack it, and return it.
- You pack, they ship. But driving a moving truck – especially as a single parent and hauling kids along with all your stuff – can be daunting for some. A good middle ground is using containers, which you pack yourself. When you're ready, the company will pick up your container and ship it to your new home, where you can unpack it.

If you're going with a full-service moving company, you might consider using this checklist of questions to ask before you sign.

Packing the Boxes

Once you've lined up a moving date and have the truck rental or movers reserved, it's time to get packing and cleaning.

Some general advice:

- Pack like items together. Go room by room.
- Start packing each box with a layer of padding – it can be newspapers. Then put the heaviest items in.
- We cannot say this enough: Label each box by room and by contents.
- Pack one or two first day boxes of stuff that is essential – screwdrivers, hammers, snacks, drinks, toothbrushes, toilet paper, a change of clothes, disposable plates, plastic utensils and cups, a first-aid kit and medications.



Moving Day

When the big day arrives, there's going to be a lot going on. If possible, see if a friend or family member can help keep young kids occupied and out of the way. (Put those teenagers to work!) Children running around with people carrying heavy boxes and furniture could result in injury.

Packing the Truck

If you're packing the truck yourself, be sure to keep things organized to reduce confusion and the risk of damage. Well-labeled boxes mean fewer friends asking "Where should this go?"

Once everything is moved out, spend some time walking through every room to make sure you haven't missed anything. Now is also the time to clean up – the old place and the new one.

Once the boxes are off the truck and unpacked, you still have some tasks to complete, like changing the locks, updating your voter registration, and finding a new dentist. But it's also time to get back to your normal routines – or your new normal – and start enjoying your new home.

Cost-Saving Tips

For many single parents, one of the hardest parts of moving is dealing with the cost with just one source of income. Finding ways to lower the cost can make a big difference for a moving family.

Let's look at some potential areas where you can save some money:

- Boxes: Reuse boxes from the office mail room or grocery store. Alcohol boxes tend to be sturdy, but might not have lids. But know your risk: Used boxes could be less stable, and fragile items could get damaged.



- **Cushioning:** Save up newspapers or ask neighbors to share theirs when they're done. Newspaper is a good alternative to packing peanuts or sealed air. Just don't wrap too tightly, or it won't have much cushion. Towels, T-shirts, and blankets are also useful.
- **DIY:** Instead of paying the movers, rent the truck and move yourself, with the help of friends and family. You'll see significant savings here, but might struggle more finding help with the big items. There's also a greater risk of injury or damaged belongings when you aren't using the pros.
- **Timing:** Most people tend to move in the summer, so rates are higher then. If possible, try to schedule your move in other months to avoid the peak season.
- **Taxes:** Under certain circumstances, you can deduct moving expenses if you're moving for a job.
- **Extra junk:** It's the time to get rid of stuff you don't need or use anymore. Don't pay someone to move a box of baby clothes that will never fit your kids again. Reducing your load can reduce your cost. Bonus points: Sell those items online for some extra cash!
- **Food:** Pack sandwiches and snacks for the road so you aren't spending extra cash in the drive thru or buying a bag of chips at every gas stop.
- **Lodging:** If you are traveling a long distance, see if there are friends or family on your route. Staying with a cousin for one night could save a ton over the cost of a hotel.
- **Deposits:** If your utilities or new apartment require a deposit, ask if those can be waived or paid in increments instead of all at once. Sometimes these companies are willing to work with customers, especially those with good credit.

More Tips

- **Assess the new area.** Try to pick a place to live close to your work (within 10 miles). Know your wants and needs and look out for move-in specials. Rent.com was my friend. It had pictures and location details.
- **Ask new employment for relocation assistance.** You never know! You may get it.
- **Pack ahead.** Research your moving options. Pick reliable and feasible.
- **Check on all of your deposits at current places and utilities as well as new area.** You want your refunds to put on new expenses.
- **Have the talk.** Ultimately, you are the adult, so you make the decisions. Tell the kids in a way that they can understand and make it a win/win. Assure them they can keep in touch with friends. And again, tell them why this is the best decision.
- **Prepare for push back.** It's coming. You will make it through.
- **Help them adjust in new area.** Share tips on how to make new friends. It will take a few weeks.
- **You take care of you and stay sane.**
- **It's going to be amazing!**
- **Enjoy this new chapter of your life.**