

## The Ultimate Moving Day Checklist

Everything you need to know and do before your next move.



### 60 DAYS BEFORE YOUR MOVE

**Make a moving folder.**

It's easy to lose important documents in the shuffle of boxes and papers. So save yourself the stress and keep them all together in a folder.

**Copy and secure important documents.**

If you're moving between rentals, it's helpful to have a copy of your old and new lease and photos that show the condition of your apartment when you left it.

**Know the size of your move.**

- Are you a do-it-yourselfer and plan to tackle it on our own? Or do you want other people to do the heavy lifting – like Bellhops 😊

**Choose your moving date.**

Insider tip: the day you move can affect prices due to demand. We recommend choosing a weekday to move.

**Begin decluttering your home.**

The less stuff you have, the easier it is to move!

**Sell or donate that stuff.**

As you declutter, only throw away the truly useless stuff. Host a garage sale, sell items on Craigslist, or, better yet, make donations to local charities.

**Get to know your moving company.**

If you hire movers, read their Terms and Conditions to see if there's anything they won't move for you.

**Start collecting moving supplies.**

Save money by looking for free boxes at liquor stores, grocery stores, and restaurants.

**Measure your furniture and compare it to your new home.**

Note the dimensions of your new home to see what furniture will fit where.

**Begin packing.**

Choose a corner and start packing items you won't use before your move.

**Label like you mean it.**

As you begin packing, be sure to label your boxes as you go. It's easier if you pack boxes room by room.

### 30 DAYS BEFORE YOUR MOVE

**Check your rental requirements.**

Renting? Be sure you notify your landlord or property manager.

**Pack for real.**

Box the items that survived the decluttering stage.

**Use soft items for packing.**

Resourcefulness makes for quick packing. Use dish towels, blankets, and socks as a way to damage-proof fragile items.

**Yep...keep packing.**

Not to be those people, but, seriously, keep packing. It's easy to get burned-out, so try to do just a little bit each day.

**Record the serial numbers of valuable items.**

This is also a good time to do those things your future self will thank you for. As you begin to think about packing your valuables—bikes, TVs, computers, et cetera—take note of your item details and serial numbers.

**Pack valuable items mindfully.**

Speaking of valuables, it's also a good idea to make a list of the items that are very, very important to you.

**FRA-GEEL-LAY—label it!**

Any box that has something remotely breakable needs to be clearly labeled "Fragile."

**Mark boxes thoroughly.**

Labeling goes a long way toward making the job of unpacking easier.



**Make those minor repairs.**

If you're leaving a rental, look at minor repairs you can do. Filling in the nail holes can go a long way in getting your whole security deposit back.

**Notify your utility companies.**

Set up disconnect/reconnect dates with your phone, water, cable, internet, gas, and electricity providers. Pay any deposits for new services in advance.

**Transfer services.**

Change your address through USPS and update subscriptions as well as any home-security, pest-control, house-cleaning, and lawn-care services you receive.

**Update cable and internet providers.**

Check if your cable and internet providers are in your new city. If they are, let them know you're moving. If not, shop around and see what your options are.

**Make sure your car is ready.**

Moving far away? Be sure your car is road ready. Take it in to get serviced before you leave. Tires and oil—the works.

**Clean out your car if you're shipping it.**

If you're packing up your car and shipping it to your new location, do a clean sweep and make sure you don't leave anything valuable inside.

**Talk to your kids about the move.**

Now is the time to begin the conversation with your kids about moving and the feelings they might experience.

**Start learning about your new neighborhood!**

Check out our blog and city guides for resources that can help you get settled.

**Plan for parking the moving truck.**

Confirm you have a place to put your moving truck. Look into getting a permit if you need one.

**Reserve your elevator.**

If you're moving into a place with an elevator, see if you can reserve one. A lot of apartment and condominium complexes also have a freight elevator that can be booked.

**Clean out the pantry.**

It's difficult to move with perishable foods, so try to eat through your fridge and freezer over the weeks before your move.

**Organize your file cabinet.**

Shred or recycle the papers you don't need.

**Secure important documents.**

Make sure passports and birth certificates and other legal documents are together and all in a safe place.

**Gather medical records.**

Contact your health-care providers to obtain medical records for you, your family members, and your pets.

**Find new doctors, if necessary.**

If you're moving to a new city, it's better to start looking now than later. Begin researching doctors near your new home.

**Map your journey.**

If you're doing a long distance move, map your route. If it's a multi-day journey, think about which cities you'll spend the night in.

**Make accommodation arrangements.**

Book hotels or Airbnb for your trip. If you're bringing along a four-legged friend, make sure the accommodations are pet-friendly.

**Keep your kids, pets, and work in mind.**

Schedule time off of work. Find a sitter for the kids and someone to watch your pets.

**Schedule your service installation.**

You'll want to do that within the first day or two of being in your new home.

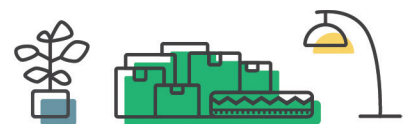
**Fill prescriptions and find a new pharmacy.**

If you have regular prescriptions, make sure you pick them up before leaving.

**Ask for help.**

If you've decided not to hire movers, be sure to ask your friends and family for help with plenty of notice!

## ONE WEEK BEFORE YOUR MOVE



**Dispose of any hazardous items that have been stored in your garage or basement.**

Get rid of everything that isn't safe to move with, like corrosive, flammable, and poisonous items.

**Take some pictures.**

When packing your television or other electronics, take a picture of the cords were arranged so that you have a visual guide to set things up in your new home.

**Keep loose hardware together.**

When you're disassembling your furniture, make sure to bag the screws and other hardware and then tape them to a larger item.

**Check on your auto and homeowners insurance.**

Make sure your providers operate in your new location.

**Pack up your pantry items.**

Defer any extensive baking and cooking plans until after your move.

**Make a road trip playlist.**

**Plan activities for your kids.**

Think of fun games or activities that will keep your kids occupied while you unpack your new home. Bonus points if you can get them to help!

**Keep your digital files safe too.**

Backup your phone on your computer, then back up your computer as well!

**Check on the trash and recycling services for your new home.**

And, if applicable, cancel your current services.

**Announce your big move!**

You can find a ton of great ideas on Pinterest.

**Update subscription services.**

Change your address on items that deliver, too! While you're at it, update your address for newspaper and magazine subscriptions also.

**Update your workplace on your new home address.**

**Cancel services you won't be able to use anymore.**

If you're moving to another city, cancel any local memberships you have, such as the library, gym, et cetera.

**Donate food you won't be able to use.**

Start going through your pantry for items you could donate to local charities.

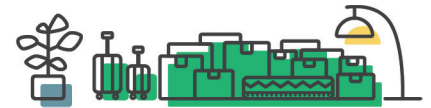
**Think about any deliveries that might still be routed to your current address.**

It's a good idea to try to adjust the shipping address or ask a trusted neighbor to keep an eye out for those packages.

**Do a deep clean of your home.**

Especially the stuff that's easy to overlook, like windows and floorboards.

## ONE DAY BEFORE YOUR MOVE



**Clean your refrigerator and freezer.**

Once your fridge and freezer are empty, let them defrost and then wipe everything dry.

**Drain your washing machine and ice-maker.**

**Empty all appliances of hazardous chemicals.**

Grills, lawn mowers, heaters, leaf blowers, and snow blowers all need to be emptied of oil or gasoline.

**Check all nooks and crannies**

Like you would before you leave a hotel, check all hidden areas—especially attics or basements. Make sure you don't leave any items behind!

**Complete your moving-out tasks as identified by your landlord.**

**Check the weather.**

If the skies look scary, reach out to your moving company and see what they recommend.

**Keep your essentials handy.**

We recommend you pack a separate bag of essentials and transport it in your personal vehicle so that the items you need don't get misplaced with your other boxes.

**Keep a suitcase of clothes.**

It can be difficult to unpack everything in a day, so you'll want to have a few changes of clothes easily accessible.

**Say hi to your movers!**

If you've booked Bellhops, you'll receive an e-mail before your move with the names and photos of your team. The lead of your move will also text or call you to see if there are any details you want them to be aware of. This is a good time to tell them if there are particularly heavy or awkward-to-carry pieces of furniture.

**Finalize details.**

Confirm plans, reservations, and bookings for the next day.

**Think about a tip**

Tip your movers with cash before they leave (or tip them online if you hired bellhops). Not sure how much to tip? Consumer Reports suggests 5 to 10 percent of the cost or \$10 to \$20 per person.

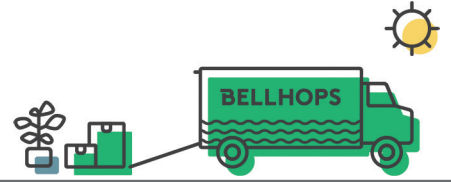
**Round up all keys to hand off to the Realtor or landlord.**

That includes the garage door or parking garage fobs.

**Say goodbye to your neighbors.**

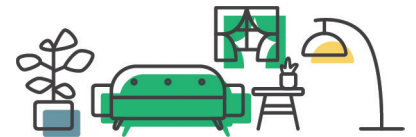
**Get a good night's sleep.**

## DAY OF YOUR MOVE



- Get up early enough to meet your movers.**
- Enjoy your last morning in your current home.**
- Don't forget to use blankets to protect your hardwood floors and clean carpets.**
- Keep your essentials box in an accessible place.**
- Communicate with your movers.**  
When your movers arrive, let them know if you have any preferences about what order rooms, boxes, or items are moved.
- If you've booked Bellhops, sit back and relax.**  
Our movers will take care of the rest.
- If you are moving yourself, stay hydrated and lift with your legs :)**
- Give your movers a tip for their hard work.**  
Tip your movers with cash before they leave or tip them in the app.
- Once your movers leave, plop down on the couch and feel good about all you've accomplished.**
- Do a quick walk-through of your home.**  
Make sure nothing needs attention and all maintenance that was agreed upon was completed like painting or hardware replacements.
- Unpack any perishable food items you decided to bring along.**
- Unpack fragile items or anything you'd like to use within the next 24 hours.**
- Set up your security system as soon as you can.**
- Head to the grocery store.**  
Time to restock! (Don't feel like you have to go overboard right away.)

## ONE WEEK AFTER YOUR MOVE



- Get the unpacking underway!**
- Thank your helpers.**  
Send a thank-you note or text to anyone who helped make your new dream home a reality: your realtor, property manager, or even friends and family who helped you along the way.
- Review your moving company.**  
You can find Bellhops on Yelp, Trustpilot, Google My Business, and Facebook.
- Make copies of your house and mailbox keys.**  
You never know when it will come in handy, but we promise it will.
- Store your appliance boxes.**  
We recommend storing them for the next time you move—especially your TV boxes.
- Dispose of your cardboard boxes.**  
You can keep newer boxes for your next move, but any box that's been used 2 to 3 times should probably get recycled.
- Do a pre-clean before getting totally unpacked.**  
Hopefully, the previous owners did a thorough job of cleaning before they moved out, but it doesn't hurt to give your kitchen and bathroom surfaces a once-over.
- Live like a local.**  
Explore your new neighborhood. If you need any recommendations, check out our city guides.
- Meet your neighbors.**
- Host a housewarming party.**