

Getting Ready for a Move Takes Time



Plan Ahead and Stay Organized

When you're planning for a move, almost everything you do will take longer than you expect. Use that thought as a motivator to stay on track. Then make your mantra: Plan ahead and stay organized. Here's a timeline to help you to just that.

EIGHT WEEKS BEFORE

- Pick a mover.
- Make an inventory of everything you plan on moving.
- Decide what goes in the truck, car or trash.
- Consider where you want to place furniture your new home.

SIX WEEKS BEFORE

- Clean out closets.
- Have a yard sale.
- Transfer academic records to your kids' new school.
- Transfer medical records to your new doctor.

FOUR WEEKS BEFORE

- Confirm the booking with your moving company.
- Arrange to have the movers come over two days before moving day, if they are packing for you.
- Get boxes and packing tape if you are packing yourself.
- Start packing out-of-season clothing and other items you won't need right away.
- Fill out change-of-address cards at the post office.
- Notify friends, family, the bank and your insurance agent of your new address.
- Send a change-of-address email to publishers for your magazine subscriptions.
- Collect all your important papers, such as birth certificates, passports, and medical and dental records.



THREE WEEKS BEFORE

- Arrange to have the utilities disconnected a few days after the move.
- Get the utilities set up at your new residence.
- Start packing room by room.
- Arrange for a babysitter on moving day if you need one.
- Reserve the freight elevator in your building for moving day.

TWO WEEKS BEFORE

- Arrange to move plants and pets.
- Get rid of items you're not allowed to move, such as gasoline and propane.
- Keep packing.
- Consider hiring a plumber or electrician to disconnect appliances you plan to move.

ONE WEEK BEFORE

- Open your new bank accounts if you're making a long-distance move.
- Make sure you have enough medication to last through the move.
- Have your doctor write a new prescription you can fill after you move.
- Disconnect any appliances you'll be moving.
- Drain gas and oil from any power equipment you'll be moving.
- Finish packing.
- Pack a bag of first-night essentials, including a broom, dustpan, garbage bags and light bulbs.

MOVING DAY

- Supervise the move.
- Strip your beds.
- Ensure that everything gets on the truck.