

CHAPTER 2

Before the Move

Moving is a lot easier when you have a plan ready to go. In addition, moving can be made less stressful when you know what tasks you need to do before moving day comes.

This chapter of our guide will walk you through what you need for a move, what you should do before a move, and share some on organizing, packing, and moving forward.



Items To Purchase Before a Move

Below are the most important things to have available before you start packing for your move.

 Boxes

Small boxes are best for heavy items, while large boxes work for lightweight items. Fragile items like dishes can be placed in medium boxes with dividers. These can often be found free on websites like Craigslist but can also be purchased at stores like Amazon or Walmart. Use a moving box calculator to be sure you have enough supplies. Think about the appropriate boxes for each space, like wardrobe boxes for the bedrooms, sturdy kitchen boxes for packing up dishes, and small boxes that can be filled with books.

 Cushioning

Bubble wrap, foam wrap sheets, and newspaper can be used to cushion fragile items in boxes. Hold onto your newspapers for a few weeks for an economical option. Bubble wrap and other cushioning can be purchased at places like Home Depot. Here are some tips on calculating packing materials.

Items like mirrors should be wrapped in bubble wrap or a thick blanket, while paintings should be wrapped to prevent damage or breaking. Wrap items like wine glasses in two inches of bubble wrap, place dishes in the bottom of boxes after wrapping them and add bubble wrap to electronics like televisions and computers.

 Labels

Labeling your boxes as you pack ensures you can find things at your new home. This can be done by writing on boxes or you can choose colored stickers that designate which room a box goes in. Amazon offers brightly colored labels that have a room name across the front. Labels can be easier to see than simple writing across the surface of the boxes.

 Packing Tape

Avoid the cheap stuff since it may not stick. Pay a bit more and go with brands you know. Add on a tape gun to make the process quick and consider bulk rolls to save money.

Other items that will come in handy are **plastic baggies** for screws and washers, **padlocks** for protecting valuables, and heavy-duty work gloves for moving things into the truck if you choose to do the labor yourself. In addition, you may want to stock up on things like **mattress covers**, **wardrobe boxes**, **packing paper**, **bungee cords**, and have a **box cutter** on hand.

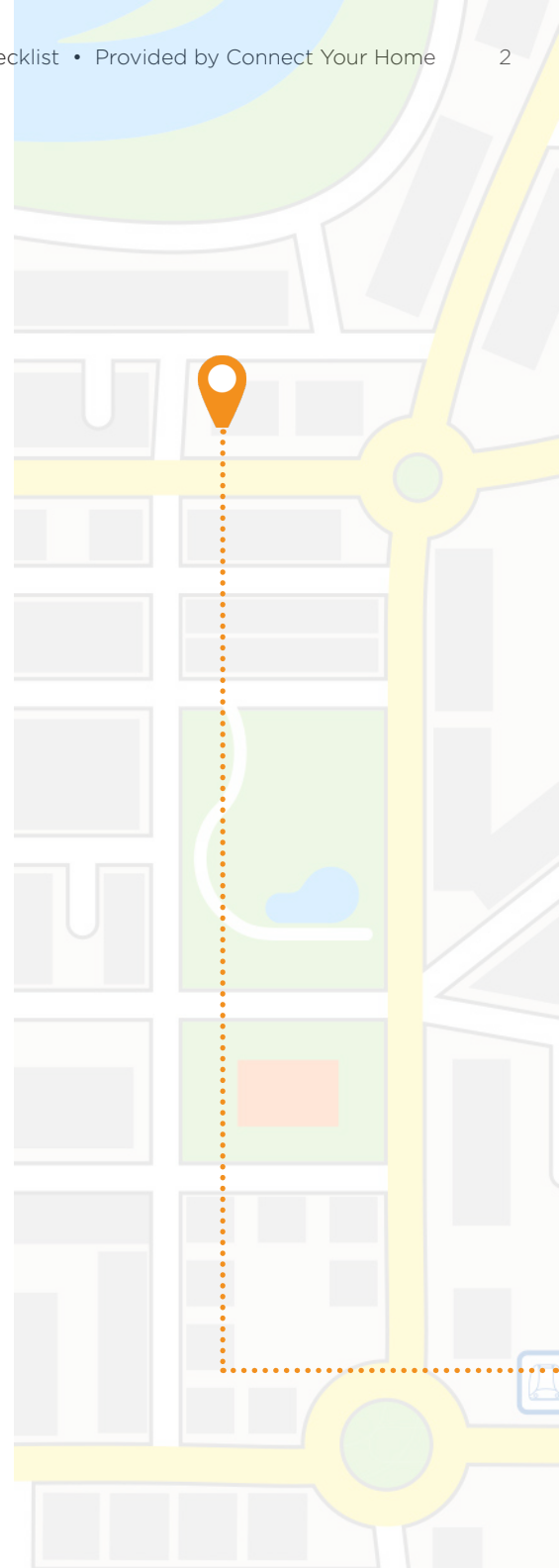
These items will get you started with packing and organizing your items. However, others may be useful based on what you need to move. For example, **furniture covers** are useful for protecting antiques from surface damage, or you can go with couch covers and mattress bags instead.

In most cases, **hand trucks** and **dollies** can be rented from the moving company. This tends to be cost-efficient unless you often move large furniture. If you need to move items up and down stairs, it might also be useful to invest in wearable moving straps. However, this is required only if a moving company won't be doing the labor for you.

A **tool set** is also useful, especially if you end up needing to dismantle furniture to move it. Keep the set with you as you move to the new dwelling so you can reassemble things quickly. **Stretch wrap** is another option that many will find helpful for keeping drawers closed on various types of furniture.

Cleaning supplies are also useful during the moving process. Have lots of **garbage bags** on hand to get rid of trash or even pack items last minute, like pillows. **Buckets** will help with the deep cleaning you need to undertake before you move. A **broom** is another item you want to pack at the last minute. You can even use it to clean out the moving truck after the move if you haven't hired your own movers.

A printable checklist for before the move can be found at the end of this booklet. [Click here](#).



What to Do to be Ready for Moving Day

Moving into a new home is easier when you start the process early. Therefore, we recommend you begin the basic planning process about two months before moving day. Below, we'll walk you through various tasks you will want to complete before your move.

Eight Weeks Before

Keeping track of everything will ensure you don't forget something essential at the last minute. That's why a **moving binder** is an excellent item to have. In addition, you can use a physical notebook, an online document, or both to keep track of what's done and what still lies in wait. We'll also help keep you on track with the checklists in this guide.

Next, take all your moving checklists and place them in the binder. You can use the ones included in this guide or make your own. Next, add important items to the binder, such as contact information for movers, the documentation you'll need on moving day, and receipts.

Make a note of all the upcoming appointments you have. This includes things like enrolling your children in a new school, scheduling inspections, or having all of your utilities scheduled to turn on.

Next, measure your furniture so you know it will fit through the door and sit in the room where you want it. This can prevent serious issues on moving day. You can also start packing a box to get a head start. Make sure it has all your valuables and documents so they don't get left behind.

Think about what kind of move you want to make. This could be moving everything on your own, bringing in some friends, or having a moving company handle the process. If you plan to use a moving company, it's best to start calling them now since schedules can get filled quickly. Connect Your Home can help you find a reputable moving company. Call 888-811-8260 for our free, one call does it all service.

Other steps to handle during this time include requesting time off work, doing an inventory of your household items, and donating things you no longer use.

A home inventory can be created in several ways. You can make a written inventory, a visual inventory, or a digital inventory. The inventory should include a list of all your belongings with a description. Add in the serial numbers, models, and makes where applicable. Take photos, create a spreadsheet, or use a home inventory checklist.

Checklist for 8 weeks before the move

- Make a moving binder
- Add checklists to the binder
- Organize documents in the binder
- Write down appointments
- Measure furniture
- Pack valuables and important documents
- Choose what kind of move you want to make
- Research moving companies
- Request time off work
- Make a home inventory
- Donate unneeded items

Six Weeks Before

Now that things are a bit more organized, it's time to move forward. During this time, you want to be sure you have all the moving supplies and services you need. Continue searching for moving companies and then narrow the list down to three or four.

If you haven't already collected moving boxes, now is a good time to start. If you want to have enough free boxes, start early. Here's a few pro tips: Check furniture stores and grocery stores to see if they have any available. Often times, liquor stores have smaller boxes that work great for packing dishes. When you plan ahead, you can often save money on these essential items.

After you have the boxes ready, label them after packing them so they can easily be moved into the new home. This is also a good time to take photos of valuables. This can be useful for two reasons. First, taking pictures of furniture and electronics can help give you insight to put them back together. Second, images, in general, are useful if you end up needing to file a claim for expensive belongings.

If there are small repairs that you need to do before moving, handle those now. This will get some work out of the way so that you feel less overwhelmed later on.

Planning to use a storage unit? Now is the time to get started with that. This might be needed if you ship some items out to your new home in advance or are waiting for people to move out before you can start moving in. Take a look at some of the best storage companies to move forward with this.

Checklist for 6 weeks before the move

- Narrow down moving companies
- Find moving boxes
- Label your boxes
- Photograph belongings
- Take care of repairs
- Book a storage unit



Four Weeks Before

At this point, you need to choose a moving company so you can decide how much budget you need. Keep receipts and dates in the handy binder you created earlier. We also recommend that you get moving coverage so that your belongings are fully protected throughout the process.

Most professional movers offer protection for your items. However, your insurance policy may cover some things too. Make sure the coverage you have is enough to protect the things you will be moving. Companies that specialize in moving insurance often provide same-day coverage.

Some options include:

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Storage Insurance: Used for temporary or permanent storage of items during, before, or after the move.

Car Insurance Verification: When shipping a vehicle, ask the company for an insurance certificate. Ask what kind of coverage you have while the car is being sent. Talk to your insurance company about whether coverage is provided during the shipping process.

Trip Transit Insurance: This covers your property during fires, theft, or disappearance while in storage or transit. It can be provided for the value of your property or used as extra coverage combined with what the moving company offers.

Floater: This protection is used for items of high value, like vases, jewelry, china, fine art, collectibles, and similar belongings.

Special Perils Contents Coverage: This covers breakages of all but the most fragile items you are moving.

You also want to create travel arrangements so you can get to the new home easily. This could mean planning the route for the moving truck, booking a flight, or renting a car. While you handle that, make sure all packing supplies you need are ready. Check back to the beginning of this chapter for a guide on what to buy.

Another essential task at around this time is getting all the home services ready for your new home. First, get your Internet connected if you haven't already. You likely need it for everyday use and going without it can make you feel like you're in the dark ages. Choose a company with a great price and get that high-speed wireless set up for the family.

Checklist for 4 weeks before the move

- Choose movers
- Get moving coverage
- Select travel arrangements
- Purchase supplies
- Connect utilities with Connect Your Home

One Week Before

Now that you have only a week left to go, all the extras need to be handled. But, first, you should get everything ready for the big day so that you aren't rushing and stressed when the moving trucks show up.

Packing an Essentials Box

When you get to your new home, you might not have time or energy to unpack all your boxes. This is where an essentials box comes in handy. This box contains all the items you need for the night (or even the next day), letting you rest easy after moving.

This box should be the last one you pack and the first that you open. If you are traveling separately from the moving truck, it should go with you so that it doesn't run the risk of being lost. Everyone is going to have different items in their essentials box, but some common options include:

- Dish soap
- Dishcloths and dishtowels
- Toilet paper
- All-purpose cleaner
- Coffee and a coffee maker
- Toaster oven or toaster
- Jar of jam and peanut butter
- Bread or crackers
- Box of pasta and a jar of pasta sauce
- Saucepan
- Beverages
- A cup, fork, plate, knife, and spoon for each family member
- Food and bowls for the pet
- All-purpose cutting knife
- Small emergency kit
- Craft knife or scissors
- Candles, matches, or a flashlight
- Shower curtain
- A towel and change of clothes for each person
- Soap, shampoo, conditioner, floss, toothbrush, and toothpaste
- Tool kit
- Garbage bags
- Important documents like leases, medical records, and passports

Start creating a list of essentials early on and then putting everything together right before moving. The essentials box gives you access to things you might need immediately rather than having them strewn throughout several boxes.

If you've made it to this point, you should be ready for the actual move. But, first, give yourself a clap on the back and get some rest so you are energized to get things done while moving into your new home.

A printable checklist for before the move can be found at the end of this booklet. [Click here.](#)

Checklist for 1 week before the move

- Take apart any large furniture items so they fit easier into a moving truck.
- Visit empty rooms and clean them out so that they are ready for the move.
- Put together garage door openers and keys so they are ready to turn in to your landlord or realtor.
- Schedule a walk-through of the new home to find things like water shut-off valves, the water heater, and circuit breakers.
- Pack a moving kit with essentials like flashlights, phone chargers, and snacks.
- Pack up clothing and personal items for every family member for moving day.
- Grab some cash for tipping movers or handling emergencies.
- Clean the new home before boxes are brought in.
- Choose a packing priority so you know what needs to be opened quickly, such as refrigerated items, medications, and pet food.
- Finish all the packing before moving day to ensure everything is ready.

