

The **Ultimate** Moving Guide and Checklist

Provided by **Connect Your Home**



**CONNECT
YOUR HOME**
JUST ONE CALL TO CONNECT IT ALL.®



Table of Contents

About Connect Your Home	1
Chapter 1: How to Use This Guide	2
Before the Move Information	3
During the Move Information	3
Right After Move Information	4
Taking Care of Your Home	4
Chapter 2: Before the Move	5
Items To Purchase Before a Move	5
What to Do to Be Ready for Moving Day	7
Eight Weeks Before	7
Six Weeks Before	8
Four Weeks Before	9
Two Weeks Before	10
One Week Before	11
Packing an Essentials Box	11
Chapter 3: During the Move	12
A Step-By-Step Guide to Moving Day	12
Checklist for Moving Day	13
Chapter 4: After the Move	14
Important Steps to Take After Moving	14
Additional Steps to Take a Few Weeks After the Move	15
Steps to Take When Moving Out of State	17
After Move Checklist	17
Chapter 5: Taking Care of Your Home	18
What To Know About Home Warranties and Home Insurance	18
Seasonal Home Maintenance Tasks	19
Spring	19
Summer	21
Fall	21
Winter	23
Additional Resources From Connect Your Home	24
Printable Checklists	25-30



About Connect Your Home

Moving is a process that feels great when it's all over and done with, but it can be fairly difficult and stressful until you reach that point. At Connect Your Home, we understand the challenges of moving from a home you know to one you don't.

That's precisely why we want to share all the information you need for your move. We'll cover what to do before the move, during the move, and even after the move is over. This guide will also cover the many services you need to make your move and settling into a new home easier for you.

Connect Your Home is an authorized, award-winning retailer for a wide variety of the top home service providers in the United States. Since 2000, we've connected millions of households with all the home services needed to live in the modern world.

You live a busy life and don't have time for tasks that get in the way of more important things. So, we provide a single, Just One Call to Connect It All, service that lets you:

- Order and then schedule all the services you need in your new home
- Easily determine which home services are provided for your location
- Compare promotions and find the best prices for all home services

Connect Your Home lets you get amazing deals on television, the Internet, and more with a five-minute phone call, perfect for moving into a new home. You can explore all your options in terms of providers, see what the latest deals are and what features you can get with the money you spend, and even schedule a professional installation within 24 hours to get you going.

Now that you know how easy it is to turn your new house into a home, read on to learn more about having a quick and straightforward move.



CHAPTER 1

How to Use This Guide

What if we told you that you don't have to live through dozens of moves to be more efficient and streamline the process? It's true. This guide is meant to give you all the practical information you need to make your move to a new home more straightforward than you could imagine.

As you know, this guide will give you the information you need, but you'll also get checklists for every step of the process. For example, we'll ensure you know what to do before moving day, what takes precedence on the day of your move, and what to prioritize once your boxes are inside the new home.

- **Do you know when the best time is to search for movers?**
- **What about how many boxes you should acquire to pack?**
- **Are you aware of how a moving binder can help through the entire process?**

After reading this guide, you'll know you should search for movers about two months out and why that's the best time.

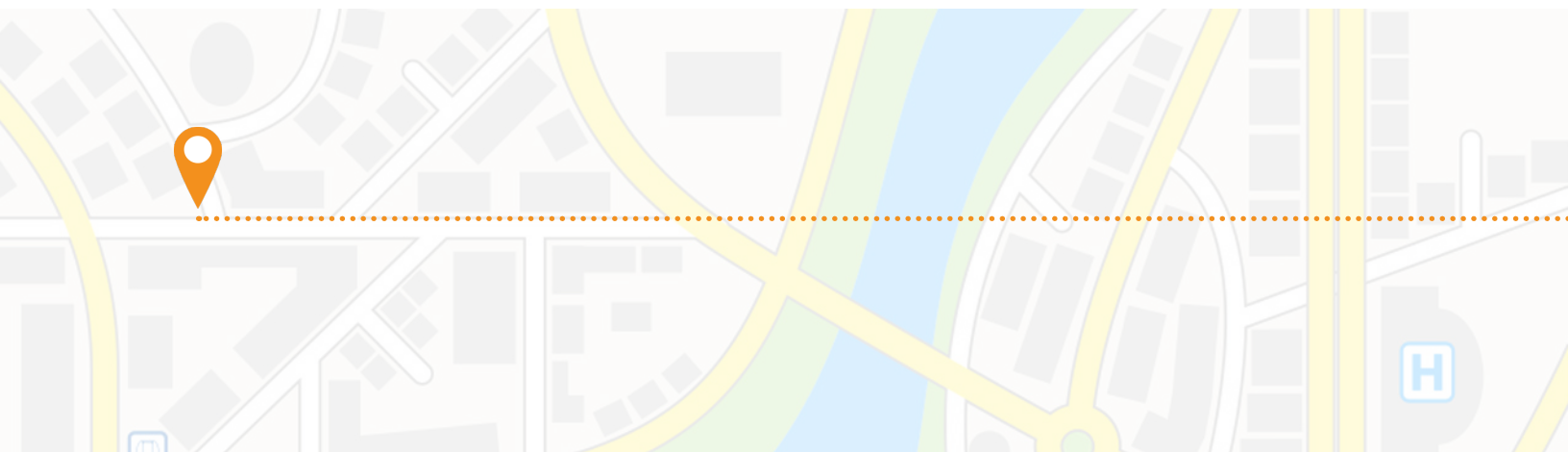
You can read through this entire guide in one sitting or you can pick it up when you have a question. This chapter will walk you through how to use the guide to find information about the things that matter to you.



About Us

There's no reason to read a book about moving if you don't trust the people who wrote it. So if you skipped over the introduction, now is a great time to go back and learn more about who we are and why we're the right choice for teaching you more about the moving process.

Even if you already know who we are and what we offer, you might learn something new. So check out the pages before this chapter to get some further information that might be helpful for you.



Before the Move

Information

No matter what kind of move you have planned for the future, this guide will walk you through the first steps.

The largest focus of this chapter is what needs to be done before the move, whether that applies to packing, donating items you no longer use, or buying moving products that will create a more efficient moving process.

The main topics you will find in **chapter two** include:

- **What items you need for a streamlined move**
- **What steps you should take before moving day comes**
- **How to keep all your moving documents secure**
- **Ways to create a home inventory of your belongings**
- **Weekly checklists to use until moving day**



During the Move

Information

Chapter three is designed to meet your needs when you wake up and see moving trucks in the driveway. This chapter focuses on getting you through moving day.

We'll share the little tips to make the day easier, from having some water bottles nearby to stay hydrated to knowing how much you're expected to tip the movers when the job is done.

In chapter three, you'll learn more about:

- **What you should pack and keep with you in an essentials box**
- **What steps to take throughout the day to make things run smoothly**
- **The appropriate paperwork to sign on moving day**
- **Why staying in touch with the movers is important**
- **Last-minute tasks to handle in the old home**
- **Items that should be on your checklist and finished by the time you sleep**





Right After Move

Information

After the move is over, you're likely to feel relieved and ready to move forward. We'll share things you need to do but might forget and give you tips for making the house into a home that everyone in the family can enjoy. In **chapter four**, expect to read information about:

- **Which steps are most important to follow after moving**
- **What you should do if you have moved into a new state**
- **Why you should prioritize changing the locks**
- **What to unpack first to be comfortable the first night**
- **How to get all your utilities turned on**
- **Action steps to add to a checklist when the move is complete**



Taking Care of Your Home

After the moving process is no more than a memory, you have to make sure your home looks great and stays comfortable. It should be a space that you are proud of, both for yourself and those who visit your home.

Chapter five focuses on all those little details of keeping your home in perfect shape. This chapter gives insight into:

- **A standard home maintenance checklist to remind you of when to do things**
- **Information about essential home care to keep up with**
- **The difference between a home warranty and homeowner's insurance**
- **How to keep your HVAC system in perfect working order**
- **What goes into handling your home maintenance needs**

▼ That's not all. So head on into chapter two if you are ready to learn
▼ more about preparing for an exciting move!
▼



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.

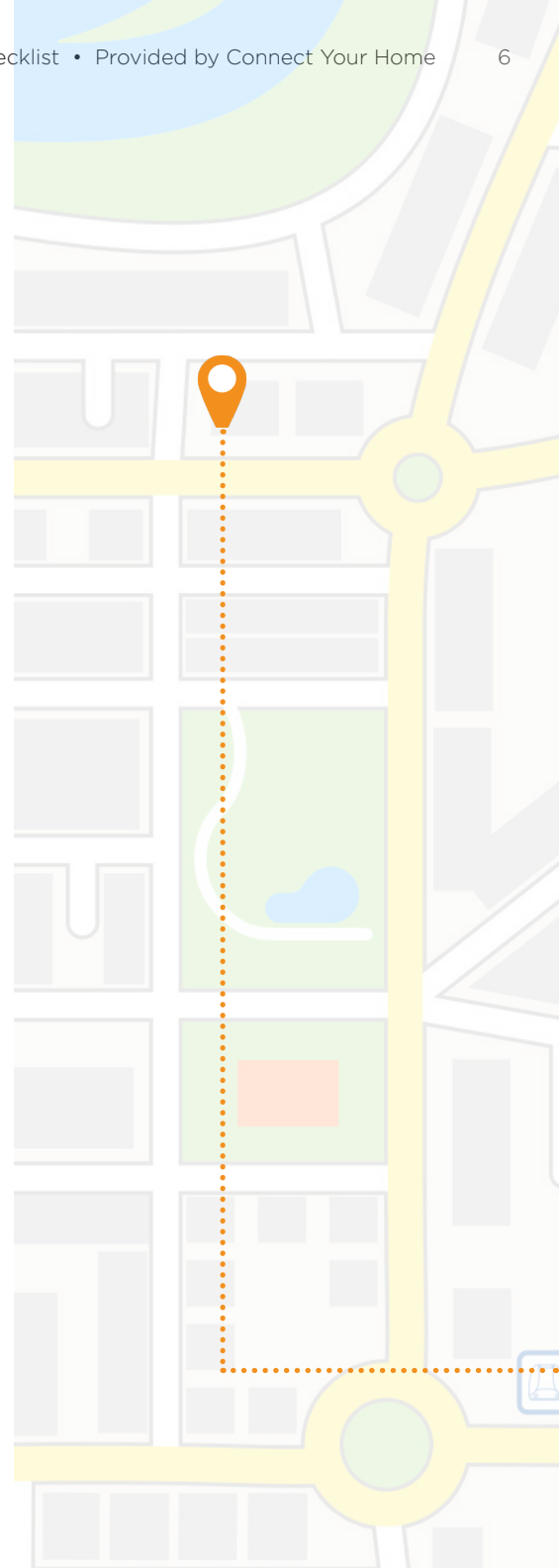
These items will get you started with packing and organizing your items. However, others may be useful based on what you need to move. For example, **furniture covers** are useful for protecting antiques from surface damage, or you can go with couch covers and mattress bags instead.

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:

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.

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

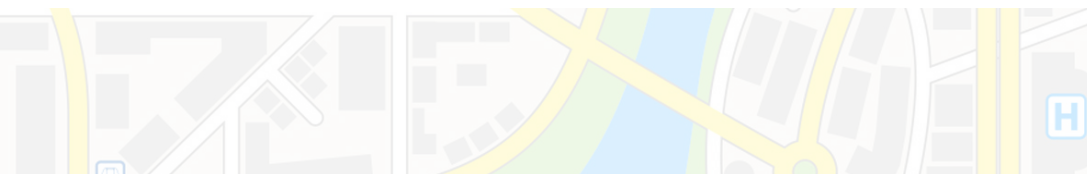
Start creating a list of essentials early on and then putting everything together right before moving. The essentials box gives you access to things you might need immediately rather than having them strewn throughout several boxes.

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.



CHAPTER 3

During the Move

Now that moving day is here, grab a cup of coffee and get ready for a long day.

This is a day where you want to be sure you have an alarm set so you're prepared to go early. While you're up and moving around, check that there is a path through the house. This will help the movers, whether you or professionals, get to the truck without tripping or damaging your furniture.



A Step-By-Step Guide to Moving Day

You've already managed to get a lot done, but moving day has some tasks associated with it that can't be done in advance. The first thing you want to do before moving is check all your paperwork. If you have movers, make sure everything looks correct.

Once the movers are in the home, help with the loading process. There's no need for you to lift boxes into a truck, but the movers may have questions that only you can answer. Make sure the people doing the move have your new address and your phone number. This is especially important if you need to leave the home while they work.

If the movers have an inventory list, you will need to sign this. You should also make sure you ask for a copy of the inventory. This is going to protect you if something is lost or broken while your items are being moved. Also, without the inventory sheet, it may be more difficult to file a claim.

Take a last look around your home to make sure nothing else needs to be done. Maybe you forgot something or you need to take out the garbage. If cleaning needs to be done, you can do this on your own, bring in some friends, or hire a service. After this is complete, lock the door and start going to your new home.

Head to your new home so you can supervise the movers when everyone is there. Keep in touch with the movers so you can be aware of whether they have traffic issues, take a short break, or go



Final Check

Take a final look through your home after the movers have packed everything up. A last look might help you remember something you meant to do but didn't quite get to. Look for any final garbage that needs to be disposed of, or notes that need to be left. Doing it now will save you the headache of having to deal with something after you've left.

a different route. This is important because it gives you a better idea of when the movers will reach your home.

If you are on a long-distance move, things can be more complicated. First, make sure the moving company can cross state lines since that isn't always possible. Second, you should be aware of parking rules for wherever you are moving, especially if unpacking the truck will take a long time. Finally, look into restrictions on what you can bring. As an example, many items can't be moved to California, even some fruits and firearms.

After the movers are at your home, show them where all the rooms are. Let them know which boxes should go where. If you used markers or stickers to label the boxes, this should be a simple process. This is a great time to make sure you have some beverages and snacks available for the movers while they work.

Once the moving is complete, it's generally expected that you tip the movers. If you are completing a small move, a 10 to 15% tip is reasonable, but you may want to tip as much as 20 to 25% of the moving cost for larger moves. Many movers prefer cash tips, but remember that you can claim a deduction on your taxes if you use a credit card or check.

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

Checklist for Moving Day

- Check all your moving paperwork
- Answer questions and direct the movers
- Sign the inventory list for security
- Do last-minute cleaning and other tasks
- Lock up and start to your new home
- Keep in touch with the movers
- Show the movers where items go
- Offer snacks and drinks
- Tip the movers



CHAPTER 4

After the Move

Now that moving day is here, grab a cup. Once you've settled into your new home, you probably want to relax, get to know the neighborhood, and meet the neighbors.

However, there are other things that will need to be done in short order to ensure your new house becomes a home. Some of these things offer security; others provide you with the creature comforts you expect.

The main goal at this point of the moving process is to make sure everything is set up. However, you'll also want to get things situated so you can start settling in and getting comfortable in your new home.



Important Steps to Take After Moving

If you're like most people, the last few days you've spent a lot of time eating out. There's nothing wrong with that for a limited time, but your stomach will be happy to get some real food into it. That's precisely why you should prioritize finding the nearest grocery store and stocking up your refrigerator. Get some of your favorite ingredients and cook something comforting for the family.

Along with food, having somewhere comfortable to sleep is a must. The first piece of furniture you will want to set up is your bed. You should also make sure you unpack the pillowcases, sheets, and blankets so you can get a good night's sleep in the new place. This is also a good time to unpack the toilet paper since you don't want to be scrambling for it when you need it.

Changing the locks is another task to handle after moving. It doesn't matter if you are moving into a brand new home or one that dozens of people have lived in before. You are never going to know who else might have access to the home. You can change the locks on your own or simply call in a professional to take care of it.

Along with the locks, you want to be sure your home is secure.



Necessities

Don't assume that food will be easily available when you arrive at your destination. Plan ahead and make sure that the most basic necessities are at hand. That includes pillows and bedding, and easily forgettable but oh-so-important toilet paper. You don't want to have to look for these items when you're tired and hungry.

That's why you want to set up a home security system. If you haven't already done this, you don't want to wait long. You can reach out to us at Connect Your Home to see what your options are and get the installation scheduled. All it takes is a short phone call to 888-411-7814.

The next step you should take is checking your utilities. Is everything working the way it should? If so, great. If you find that you don't have gas, the electricity isn't working, or you have no water, that needs to be handled. This is another situation that can seem daunting but doesn't have to be. Put together a list of service providers with phone numbers for gas, power, water, or sewer for easy reference.

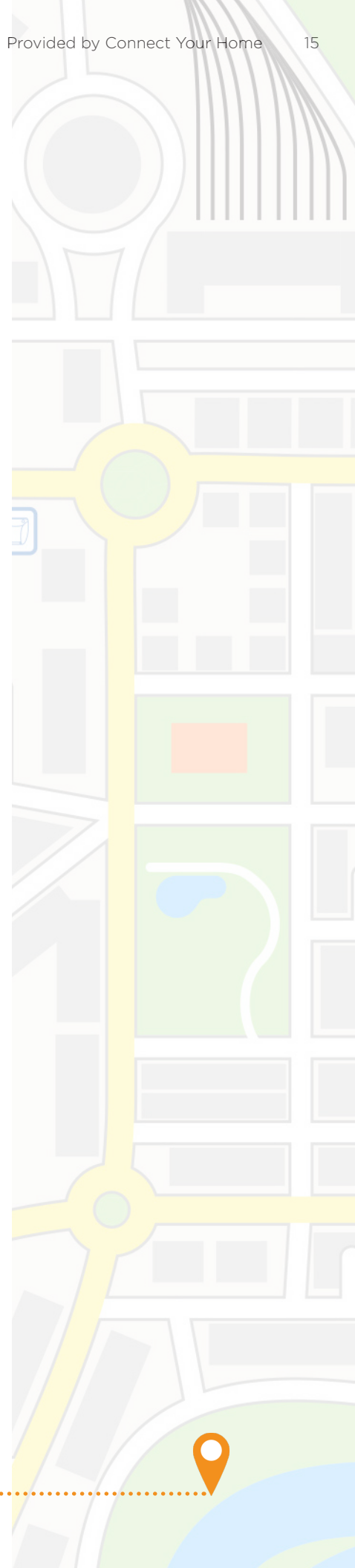
For those who are moving into an area with a homeowner's association (HOA), it's time to make sure you know all the details. Get in touch with the HOA and find out about policies on things like lawn care and pets. You also want to find out what your monthly dues are so you can add the amount to your budget. Finally, add the due date to your calendar so that you never forget to send in what you owe.

Are you hosting a party? If you want to have a housewarming party, you should start working out the details now. Wait a week or two to throw the party so you can be sure you are all settled in. For now, you can set a date and make invitations. Drop by the neighbors and pass them out. This is a great way to establish yourself in the neighborhood and even make a few new friends.

There are two more things you will want to get out of the way in the first day or two after your move. First, if you used a moving company to handle your belongings going from one location to another, now is the time to leave a review. Let people know if things went well and alert potential customers to challenges you had, if applicable. Second, this is also the ideal time to send out thank you cards to anyone who helped with the move.

Additional Steps to Take a Few Weeks After the Move

At two or three weeks in, you should be feeling comfortable in your new dwelling. The main goal at this point is to be fully moved into your home. After that, we want you to reach the point where the moving process is over and nothing but a memory. You're already pretty close to that point if you've been following this guide, but there are a few more things to handle first.



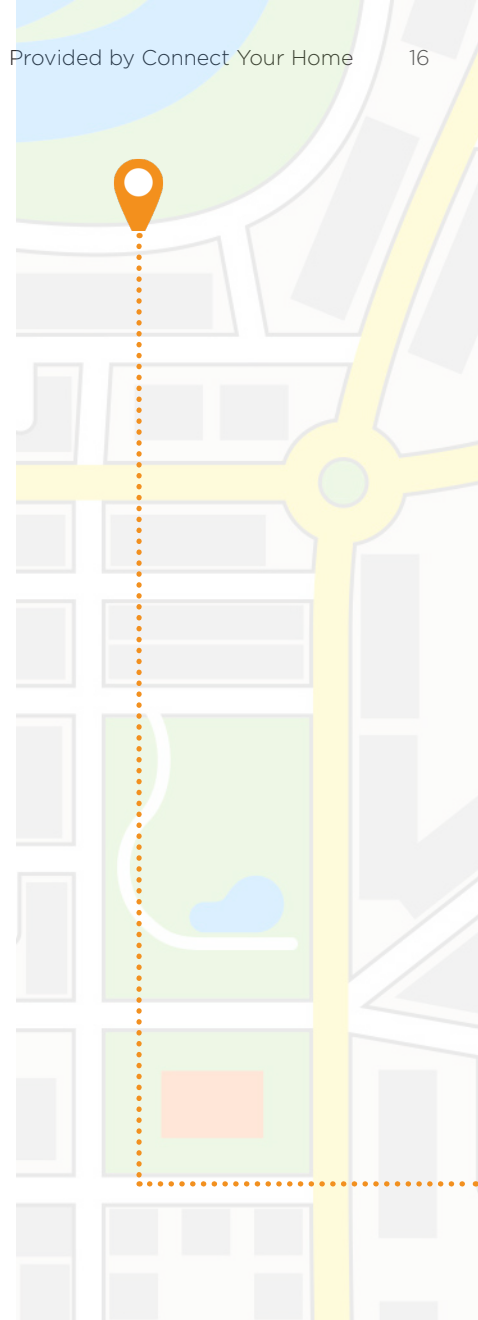
The biggest thing you want to do at this point is finish all the unpacking. This can be daunting and will take time, but it will also be worth it. Once things are all in their places, you can fully settle down and relax. There's no more need to be rummaging through boxes to find items at the last second. Everything should have a place and your home should be organized so you can easily find everything you need.

You already had your door locks changed and you have a key to get in and out. Now is a great time to make some spare keys. You might want to have keys for the kids or a family member who comes over to help around the house. If you have service people coming in, perhaps you want a key that they can use to get in. If nothing else, a spare key is good to have just in case you lose the original key.

A few weeks ago, you started planning your housewarming party. Now, you can actually have it. This is a reward for you making it through the moving process, but it also acts as a way to get to know the neighbors. So make snacks and drinks, hand out favors, and make sure to have a good time.

What else do you have to do? Take the moving binder you used throughout the moving process and put it away somewhere. It could come in handy in the future. You can use the binder to map out a future move and make things easier.

After that, all you need to do is relax. You've made it through the move with flying colors. Now is the time to get used to your home, your new location, and the new life that you have made for yourself. You did it and you came out on the other side completely unscathed. Congratulations!



Steps to Take When Moving Out of State

There are differences between moving across the city and moving to an entirely new state. Those who are roughly in the same location can continue to use the same services they did in the past. However, moving to a new state has extra challenges that need to be accounted for. This section of the guide will look at some of the things you may need to do when moving a long distance.

Do you have a new job in the place where you are moving? Most people do, but not all are so lucky. Some people end up moving for a spouse's career and need to find one of their own. You can start looking for employment before you leave, but you may end up doing the same once you're moved. So work on your resume, make sure you have letters of recommendation, and get out there.

Another consideration when moving a long distance is finding a new doctor. You likely had one you trusted but can no longer visit because they are too far away. Consider whether you need a primary care doctor, a specialized physician, or both. Research your options and ask people you know for recommendations. It is also important to know where the nearest emergency room is located.

A new school will be needed if you have children. If you haven't found the right school, that should be a priority. Look at all of your options. Visit school websites to learn more about the curriculum, the number of students per teacher, and what extracurriculars are available. Consider distance, as well. Visit potential schools before you make a final decision.

If you haven't registered your car and transferred your driver's license, that needs to be done. Both of these things can be done at the local Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) office. There are deadlines for registering vehicles, so make sure you are aware of those. In addition, you'll need to have proof of insurance, personal identification, and other documents, so get those together and ready.

Updating your voter registration is another consideration. When your address changes, your voting location often will, too. You can register to vote in person, through the mail, or online. In many states, you need to register around two to four weeks before the election you want to vote in. The US Vote Foundation website will give you more information about the dates for the state you have moved to.

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



After Move Checklist

- Fill up the refrigerator
- Set up the bedroom
- Change the locks
- Get a security system
- Make sure you have utilities
- Get the Internet connected
- Choose a television company
- Find out the HOA policies
- Plan the housewarming party
- Rate the moving company
- Send out thank you cards
- Finish unpacking
- Make some spare keys
- Have a housewarming party
- Put away the moving binder
- Find new employment
- Choose a family physician
- Select schools for the children
- Register your car and update your driver's license
- Update your voter's registration.

CHAPTER 5

Taking Care of Your Home

Moving into a new home can be exciting. You might have larger rooms to spend time in, a better view, and extra space for furniture and artwork.

Some people move into a new home and remain there for the rest of their lives. Whether that sounds like you or not, you likely want to keep the space in great shape as long as you have it.

If you stay there for years, taking care of the home will ensure it stays in great shape as you work, play, sleep, and eat every day. On the other hand, if you plan to sell the home someday, keeping it in perfect shape is just as important. You want to be sure that you put a house onto the market that has great value so that buyers are interested and willing to pay more for the pleasure of moving into the space.

The truth is that a little bit of maintenance can go a very long way. Home maintenance is about being prepared. By purchasing appropriate cleaners, keeping a well-stocked tool kit, and doing a bit of maintenance every month, you can prevent small problems from turning into large ones. If a huge issue does come up, you'll be in a better place to take care of it quickly.

What To Know About Home Warranties and Home Insurance

Whether it's new or used, you will likely be offered a home warranty with the purchase of a home. This is protection against any unforeseen and expensive repairs in the future. A home warranty isn't the same thing as homeowner's insurance. Homeowner's insurance covers things like hail, fire, and property crimes. On the other hand, home warranties are a contract between you and a company to offer discount replacements and repairs on things like plumbing, furnaces, HVAC systems, and electrical components.



The differences between home warranties and home insurance include:

Coverage

Insurance covers personal property and structural damage but doesn't cover damage based on wear and tear for things like appliances. For instance, it would cover the cost of replacing plumbing components but not the damage caused by a leaking pipe.

Requirements

Those with mortgages are typically required to have home insurance. A warranty is an optional addition. In some cases, the person selling the home will add in a home warranty as a perk for the person buying the property.

Claims

If something covered by a home warranty is damaged, you can contact the home warranty provider to get service. A repair expert will be sent out to diagnose the issue. If a repair isn't possible, the company will replace it. Depending on the warranty you choose, there may be fees or coverage limits to be aware of.

Seasonal Home Maintenance Tasks

When you create home maintenance task lists for each season, you ensure all maintenance gets done. In addition, it prevents you from forgetting something that needs to be done in summer that might not be appropriate in winter. Below, we'll be sharing some of the tasks you should do on a seasonal basis to keep your home in perfect shape. When your home is in great condition, that lets you maintain the value of the house.

Spring

If you have central heating and air conditioning in your home, contact a local HVAC technician to make an appointment for a biannual checkup and servicing. This process involves checking your ductwork for damage, servicing and cleaning the furnace, and making sure the air conditioner compressor is in good order. You or the technician should also clean the bathroom vents at this time.

Do you use steam heat in your home? If that's the case, you should take this time to drain your boiler. This removes any accumulated sediment and keeps things in great shape.



Take a look at the pipes in your home, especially under sinks, to look for leaks. Look for water signs on the ceilings, as well. See if the faucets are dripping or the flapper in the toilet is worn out. If there are repairs you can do, go ahead with that. If not, bring in a plumber to take care of the pipes. You'll be glad you did when an issue doesn't have the chance to get worse.

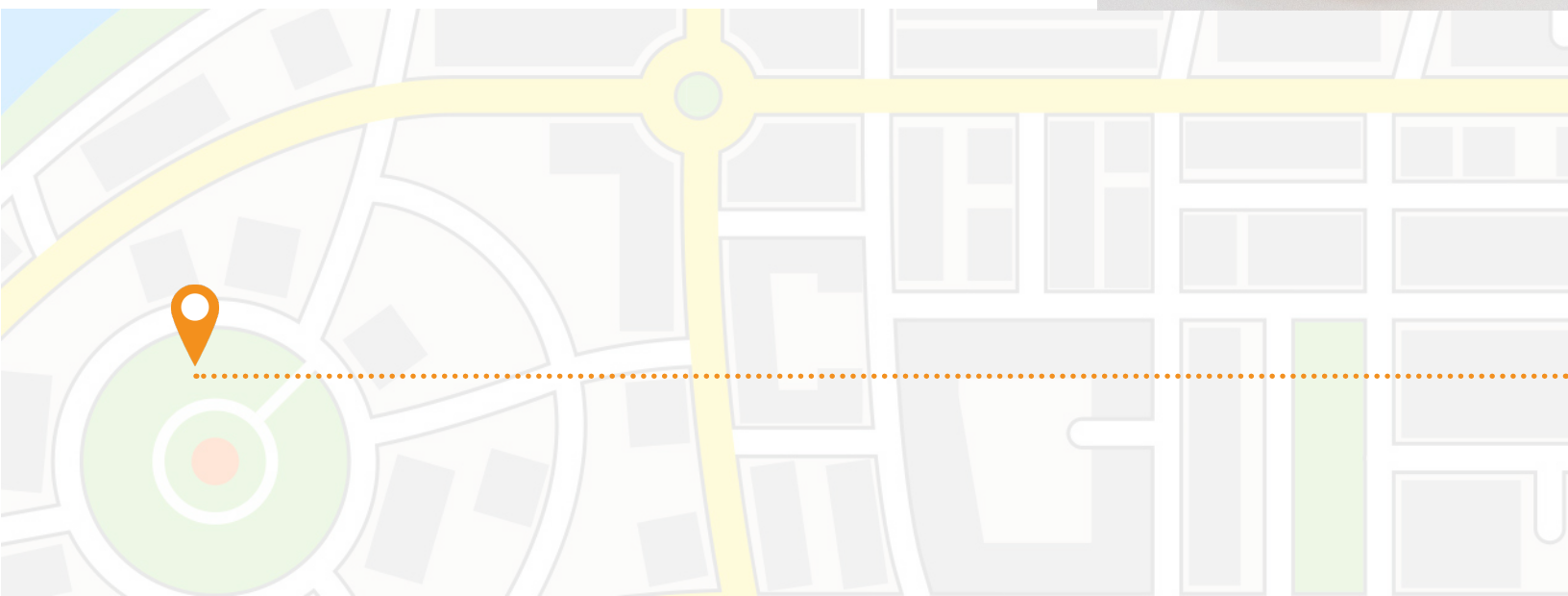
All three of the maintenance tips above are designed to ensure your home runs smoothly. For example, if the air conditioner compressor goes bad, the vents aren't cleaned, or there are other issues, your air conditioner or central heating unit might break down and leave you dealing with uncomfortable temperatures. Draining the boiler keeps it from being dirty and potentially becoming damaged. If you let water leaks worsen, it can create serious problems that are expensive and time-consuming to repair.

If your foundation vents have covers, remove them to allow air to circulate in the crawlspace and reduce moisture, which can cause mold.

Spring is a rainy season, so you should inspect the sump pump to see if it drains correctly. The last thing you want to do is wait until the first major rainstorm to find out that the motor is shot and you have a serious problem. It can cause serious flooding in the basement, which will necessitate a large amount of cleanup.

Whether you use the fireplace or not, the chimney needs a regular checkup. It's responsible for moving dangerous gases out of your home. Have it inspected at least once a year. If you use it on a regular basis, this may need to be done more often. Consider doing so twice a year instead of just once.

The final maintenance tip for spring is checking your carbon monoxide detectors and smoke alarm. This is also a good time to change out the batteries to ensure these devices are working. If you want to be extra safe, consider installing smart detectors that give alerts through voice instead of typical alarms.





Summer

The summer season isn't a time most people like to clean and do repairs. Instead, you likely want to enjoy your home. However, there are a few tasks that you should get out of the way. Once you handle these things, you can use all your free time to swim in the pool, have barbecues, and play with the kids.

Once summer comes, you want to reverse your ceiling fan blades, so they move in a counterclockwise manner. This will push the air down toward you and create an excellent breeze. If you are unsure if your fan is turning the correct direction, stand under the fan and look up. If the fan is spinning to the left and you feel the air moving, it's correctly set for summer. If you don't feel much air movement and the blades are spinning to the right, the fan is turning the wrong direction.

You should also be cleaning your air conditioner filters once a month. This applies whether you rely on window units or central air. If you are running the air conditioning most of the time, this is especially important. Dirt can clog up the filter and make it harder for the air conditioner to run.

Since summer often brings serious heat, you should prepare for that. First, check the weatherstripping near the doors and windows to be sure it's keeping cold air in. If you have windows that let in afternoon or morning sun, cover those with drapes. Since heatwaves sometimes result in loss of power, be ready with bottled water, batteries, canned food, a radio, and a first-aid kit.

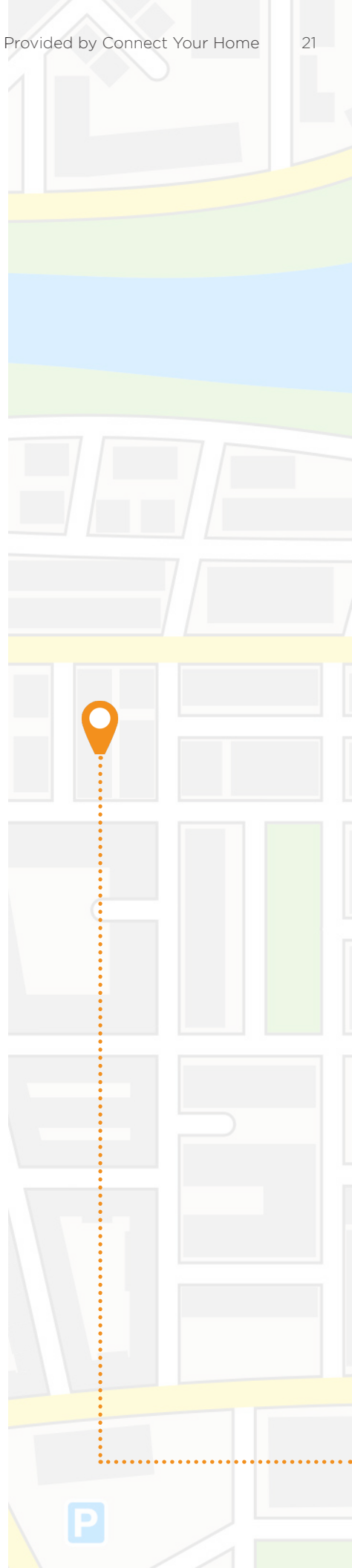


Fall

Things cool off as the leaves change color in fall. This is an indication that you should get the home ready for winter. Of course, the amount of work you have to do depends on the climate you live in. For those with warmer winters, you may not have as many special tasks to handle.

Now is the time to have your air conditioner serviced. If you have a window unit, it can stay there, assuming it is sealed. Cover the inside and outside and add insulation to provide protection from the weather. However, you can also take it out and put it somewhere safe until next year. It should be stored upright to ensure no damage occurs to it.

At the same time as you service the air conditioner, you also want to do the same for the ductwork and furnace. A clean furnace is going to be more efficient. Plus, an inspection will alert you to potential problems. Check your air filters and replace them if needed. You should also test that the thermostat is working and make sure the heating vents are open.



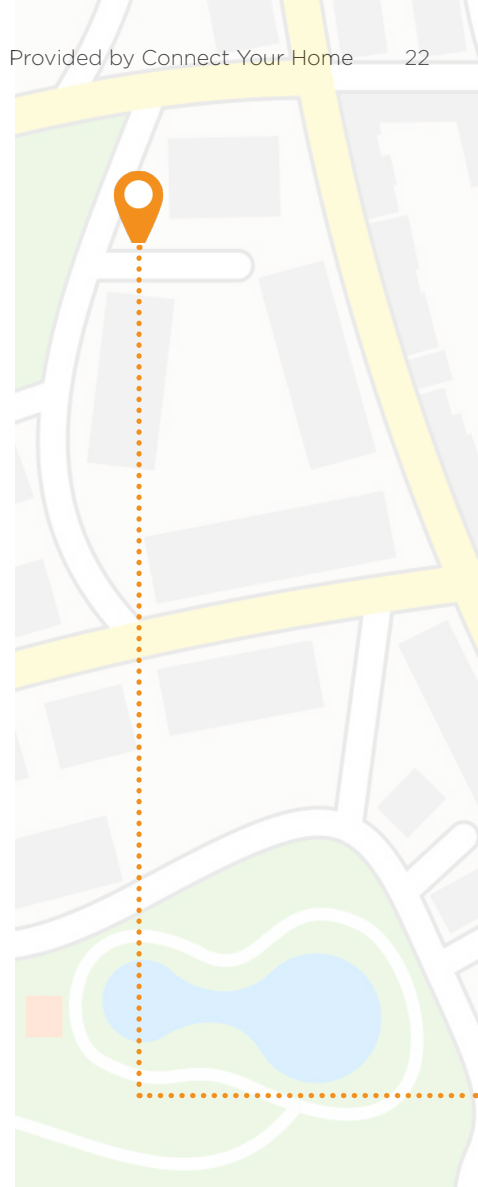
For steam-heated homes, make sure a plumber checks the boiler. Drain the water from it to get rid of sediment. However, make sure it is filled back up before being used. A plumber can also look at your radiators to make sure all the valves are in good shape and working correctly. This is also the ideal time to check the thermostat.

For those who didn't get the chimney inspected and cleaned in spring, now is the time to do it. You want to make sure this is complete before you use your furnace or fireplace.

Take a walk around the house, checking on doors and windows for drafts. Use caulk on window and door frames as needed. As fall moves forward, make sure your storm windows are installed. The glass panel on them will help keep heat in and prevent the cold from getting inside.

One of the major causes of house fires is the dryer, so you want to be sure you keep it in good shape. Lint is one reason a fire can occur, which is why you should have the vent cleaned or inspected each year by an HVAC professional. Make sure this expert specializes in this kind of work.

This is the second time each year to check your carbon monoxide detectors and smoke alarms. Change any low batteries. Otherwise, fall is a good time to get started with home improvement projects. If you already called for contractor bids, now is the time to book the work you want to be done.



Winter

Winter is largely a season where we cozy up at home and avoid going outside. Consequently, major improvement projects aren't recommended since the weather may be unpredictable. There are a few tasks that you should handle in winter, though, to keep your home in great shape for the upcoming spring.

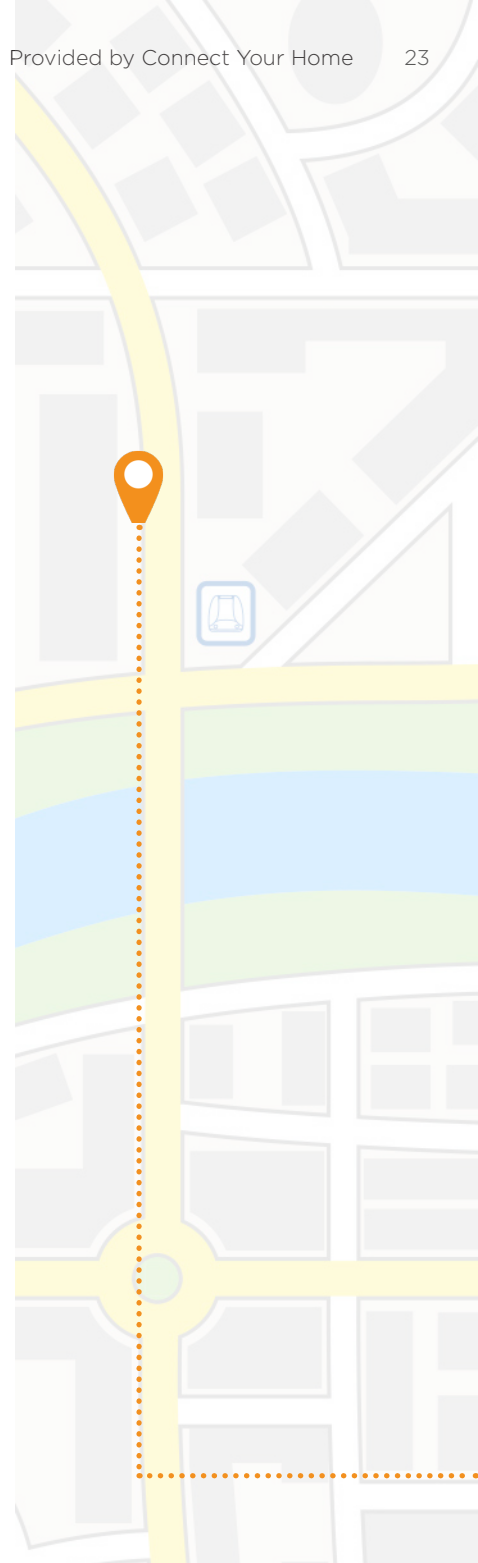
Inspect your heating system and check and change the filters. Depending on the brand and model of your system, these may need to be replaced as often as once a month or as little as twice a year. For those with boilers, keep an eye on the water levels to ensure it doesn't get too low.

If water gets in pipes and freezes, it expands and can crack or damage the pipes. Once the ice melts, the water will end up flooding your home. The pipes that are mostly like to burst are those outside of your home. Make sure these are drained and shut off before the weather gets cold. Insulate any pipes that you can, and keep cabinets under sinks open on cold nights to let in warm air. It's also a good idea to keep the faucet running at a drip on cold days to ensure the water keeps moving.

If your house has foundation vents and you live in a place with freezing temperatures, be sure to cover the vents. These vents allow outside air to circulate in the summer, which helps prevent moisture buildup. Covering the vents in winter helps reduce the chance that pipes in the crawlspace will freeze.

A portable generator is a great option for winter when blackouts may occur. It should be turned on at least every three months. It also should be serviced twice a year, even if you rarely or never use it. Motor oil or fuel should be available for an emergency. Don't let fuel sit in the tank for extended periods since that can cause damage.

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



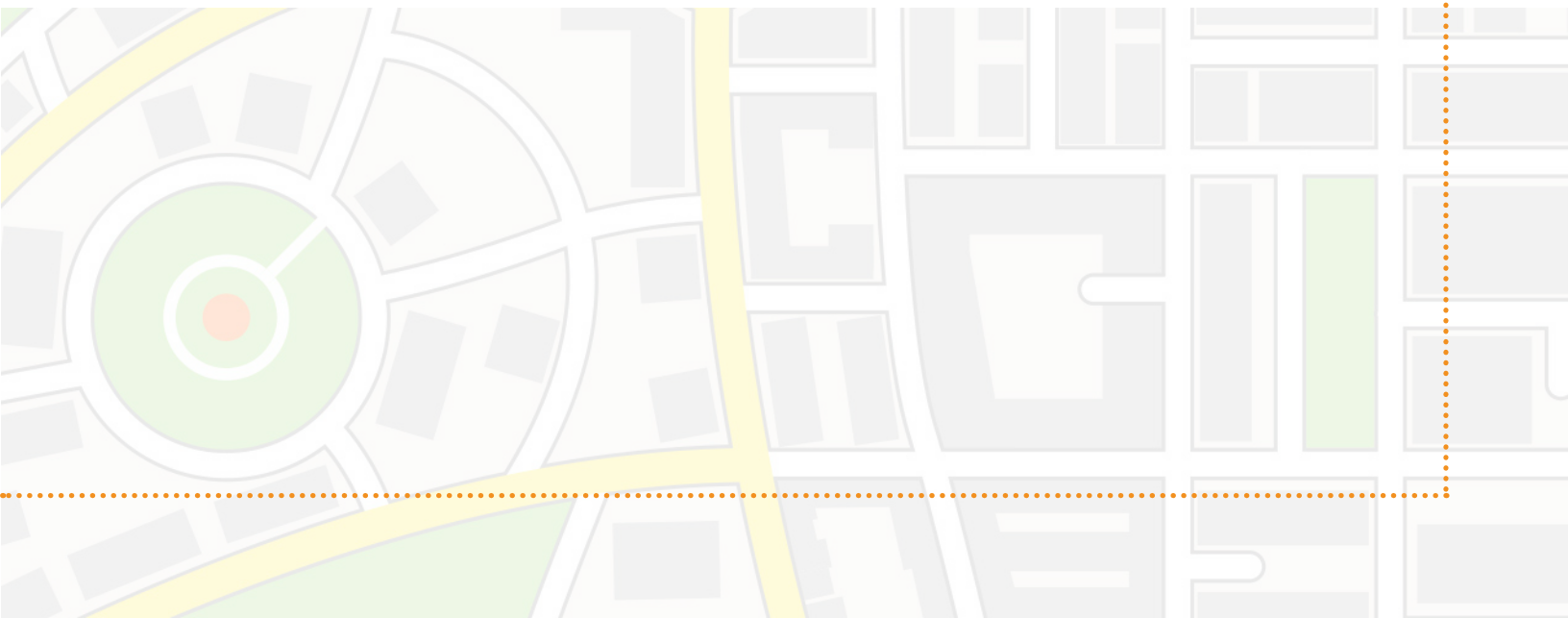
Checklist

Moving Supplies



**CONNECT
YOUR HOME**
JUST ONE CALL TO CONNECT IT ALL!

- Box cutter
- Broom
- Bucket
- Bungee cords
- Cleaning supplies
- Cushioning
- Garbage bags
- Hand trucks and dollies
- Labels
- Mattress covers, wardrobe boxes
- Moving boxes
- Packing paper
- Packing Tape
- Padlocks
- Plastic bags
- Stretch wrap
- Tool set

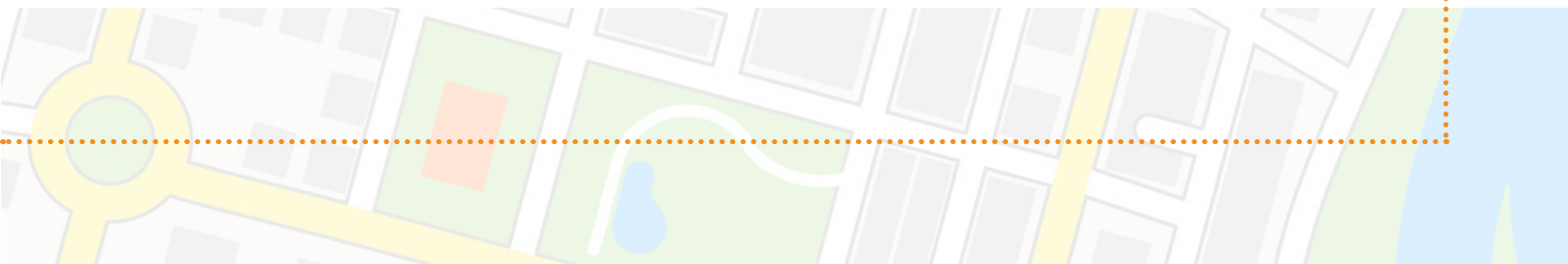


Checklist

Your Essentials Box



- 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 pets
- 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



Checklist

Before the Move



Eight Weeks

- 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

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

Four Weeks

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

Two Weeks

- Change your address and distribute it
- Cancel and update subscriptions
- Confirm moving information
- Start packing
- Get pet sitters, babysitters, or both
- Update car registration, auto insurance, and driver's license

One Week

- 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.



Checklist

Moving Day



- Check all your moving paperwork
- Answer questions and direct the movers
- Sign the inventory list for security
- Do last-minute cleaning and other tasks
- Lock up and start to your new home
- Keep in touch with the movers
- Show the movers where items go
- Offer snacks and drinks
- Tip the movers

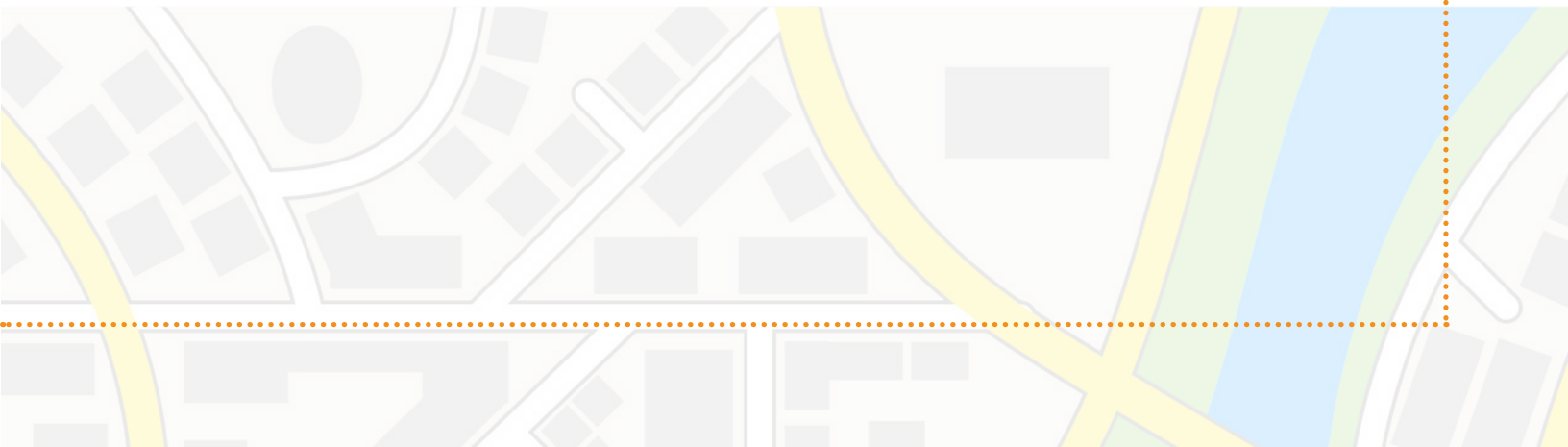


Checklist

After the Move



- Fill up the refrigerator
- Set up the bedroom
- Change the locks
- Get a security system
- Make sure you have utilities
- Get the Internet connected
- Choose a television company
- Find out the HOA policies
- Plan the housewarming party
- Rate the moving company
- Send out thank you cards
- Finish unpacking
- Make some spare keys
- Have a housewarming party
- Put away the moving binder
- Find new employment
- Choose a family physician
- Select schools for the children
- Register your car and update your driver's license
- Update your voter's registration



Checklist

Maintenance List



Spring

- Have the HVAC serviced
- Drain the boiler and remove sediment
- Look for leaks under sinks
- Remove foundation vent covers
- Make sure the sump pump drains
- Inspect the chimney
- Make sure the smoke alarm and carbon monoxide detectors are working in the spring



Fall

- Have the HVAC serviced
- Have the air conditioner serviced
- Check on your furnace and ductwork
- Have the boiler checked
- Check for door and window drafts
- Inspect the dryer for damage
- Recheck the smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors in the fall



Summer

- Reverse the direction of the fan blades to counterclockwise
- Clean the air conditioner filters each month
- Check and repair the weatherstripping
- Prevent bugs and rodents from coming inside
- Book home improvement projects in the summer



Winter

- Make sure the heating system is in working order
- Keep pipes drained outside when it's cold
- Cover foundation vents
- Purchase a generator and service it twice a year

