

Moving Into Your New Home

The activities of moving day are different from typical daily living. You may hear yourself asking questions such as “Where’d we get all this stuff?” or “Did you remember to bring the toilet paper?” The following checklists can make moving a bit less chaotic.

Before carrying in the first box or piece of furniture, inspect your home again for damage that may have occurred during work on last-minute items. Though not a common event, such damage can occur without your builder’s knowledge. If it has, notify the builder immediately and follow-up in writing.

Take precautions to protect vulnerable surfaces such as hardwood or resilient floors. Cover rails with moving pads or blankets. Remove doors where furniture might be a tight fit. You can protect carpet with ribbed, plastic runners.

Professional movers should have insurance for any damage they might accidentally cause. Friends and relatives will not. They are also unlikely to have the training and practiced skills of professional movers. If you are moving yourself, organize the schedule to avoid rushing and include rest breaks. People who are tired or in a hurry are more likely to hurt themselves or your belongings.

Whatever else is going on, at dinnertime assemble the family for your first meal together in the new home. Sit across the card table from each other, smile, and say “We made it.”

Moving Preparation Checklist

- > Compare proposals of professional movers.
- > costs for services such as packing and unpacking
- > costs of packing materials and boxes
- > distance and weight charges
- > insurance
- > availability and notice needed
- > self-move
- > make truck reservation early

- >include a reservation for a dolly, a hand truck, and moving pads
- >reconfirm a week prior to your move
- >Involve children in planning and preparing for the move.
- >Donate unwanted items.
- >Return borrowed items.
- >Properly discard flammable materials.
- >Empty refrigerator.
- >Create a file for storing documents about your home and manufacturers' literature.
- >Retain receipts for tax purposes. Moving costs may be deductible.
- >Send change of address cards to magazines and book clubs 6 weeks prior to your move. Also notify relatives, friends, and your newspaper delivery person. (The U.S. Postal Service provides a free kit that includes change-of-address cards for various purposes, money-saving tips, and other information on moving. Ask for it at your local post office. Postal Service website, www.usps.gov/movers.net/ provides similar information, and you can fill out the forms on-line.
- >Give the following order to your current post office a month prior to your move to assure uninterrupted service.
- >Transfer or start utility services.
 - >water and sewer
 - >gas
 - >electric
 - >telephone
 - >cable television
 - >trash collection
 - >security service, if applicable
- >In some regions, having a professional spray the home for insects (fire ants, for example) before furniture is in place is wise.
- >Register children in their new schools.
- >Transfer medical and dental records, if necessary.

- >Arrange for homeowner insurance and obtain the certificate you need for closing.
- >Order checks with your new address and update financial records.
- >Update your driver's license and your vehicle and voter registrations.

PACKING MATERIALS

- >Boxes of various sizes, cartons for mattresses
- >Packing tape and heavy cord
- >Packing paper, newspaper, bubble wrap
- >Labels to identify boxes (include a number, room/name; "Fragile" labels for special items.
- >Markers
- >Master packing list (List each box by number with name/room and a brief description of contents.)
- >Scissors
- >Furniture pads, blankets, rugs

MOVING DAY NECESSITIES

- >Children's toys and games
- >Toilet paper
- >Beverages and snacks
- >Paper towels
- >Soap and hand towels
- >Trash bags
- >First-aid kit
- >Prescription medication
- >Medical supplies for special needs
- >Paper pad and pen
- >Shelf liners
- >Small tools

- >tape measure
- >scissors
- >screw drivers
- >hammer
- >Ice maker hook-up kit
- >Dryer vent flex hose
- >New hoses for washing machine
- >Picture hangers
- >Plant hooks
- >Scratch cover stick or liquid
- >Phone and phone book

One last suggestion-moving into a new home is a lot of work. However well you have planned the details, becoming truly settled takes most families a long time. Be realistic in your expectations and enjoy the process of making your new house into your new home.