

Moving Checklist

So you have to move...here are some helpful items I have learned from a series of moves over the years:

1-2 months before:

- Sort and purge all clothing and undergarments
- Sort and purge all seasonal items (i.e. holiday decorations, summer outdoor items, etc.)
- Sort and purge books, DVDs, CD, and magazines
- Call storage facilities for availability and pricing – be sure to check websites, as many facilities offer free or ½ off the first month
- Call moving company, friends, or family to schedule your respective moving force
 - See this link for helpful advice on movers: <http://www.realsimple.com/home-organizing/organizing/moving/12-steps-hiring-mover>
- Call the utilities and cable companies to issue a stop service
- Initiate the change of address on USPS's website: <https://www.usps.com/manage/forward.htm>
- Update your mailing address for key items, such as your bank, newspapers, magazines, bills, etc.

2-3 weeks before:

- Start pulling together like items from across your apartment, home, condo (i.e. candles, décor, tools, napkins, etc.) – combining similar items in the packing process can help you identify excess/overlaps and keep track of items in the event you do not know exactly which room they will be placed in during your move
- Go through all food, perishable and non-perishable and toss out the expired, never-to-be-used, and soon-to-be expired items (you will need all of the dumpster space available the week of the move, trust me)
- Purchase moving materials – these can be as easy as the click of a button on Amazon, to buying used boxes from other fellow movers on Craig's List – remember to save your daily newspapers or ask those who receive them to pass them onto you when they're done reading, your dishes will thank you
- Make labels and inventory your items—for the super-organized among us, this is the key to keeping your sanity during a hectic period of time—make sure you label fragile items accordingly
- Make a calendar of packing – especially if you're packing with a spouse, significant other, friend—aligning schedules is another key to keeping the peace –the key to the calendar: break up the packing by area in segments, packing all at once is super stressful for most
- Ensure all non-critical items have been packed (i.e. décor, curtains, certain kitchen items, etc.)

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Week before the Move:

- Determine what items must come with you, if you're living at a transitional home before the final leg of your move (i.e. toiletries, clothing, shoes, medicines, pet items)
- Double check packed boxes – is the tape pulling up? Is there a label?
- Pack remaining items – do not pack/store valuables
- Purchase water/drinks for your volunteer and paid movers – the better hydrated, the smoother the move
- Call the storage facility and reconfirm time of arrival and any other facility procedures
- Don't forget to pack your cleaning products last – rule of thumb: leave the space as you hope you receive your next—broom swept isn't necessarily enough these days
- Double check all of your cabinets, drawers, etc. – don't leave any of your items behind!
- New homeowners buying your house? Why not leave a bottle of champagne or a bottle of Clean Slate Riesling?