Before The Move

Professional moving services

1. Work out your moving budget: how much money can you afford to allocate for the move?
2. Fill out an instant moving quote online and get contacted by a reliable professional moving company to work out the details.
3. Research the online reputation of professional moving companies: check their service ratings and moving reviews left by customers.
4. Check [www.fmcsa.dot.gov](http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov) to see if the movers you have shortlisted have been properly licensed by the U.S. Department of Transportation (valid USDOT Number).
5. Visit the movers’ websites to learn more about who they are, what they do and how they do it.
6. Contact at least 5 moving companies that best suit your needs and relocation budget.
7. Make sure you ask the movers all the important questions in relation to your move.
8. Request accurate in-home estimation of your moving costs.
9. Think twice before accepting price estimates prepared online or over the phone.
10. Request a written binding estimate of the final relocation price from the representative who is performing a visual inspection of your household.
11. Ask about any additional services offered by your movers if such are not clearly stated and priced in the binding estimate.
12. Ask your movers about current promotions, applicable discounts or anything else that may bring the price down.
13. Obtain more information about movers’ insurance options, services offered, payment methods, dispute settlement programs, hidden fees and so on.
14. Compare the received estimates carefully.
15. Refrain from accepting an offer that is way lower than the rest – it could be a sign of a moving scam.
16. Having set your sights on a particular mover, book your move as soon as possible to cut down on your moving costs.
17. Consider scheduling your move on a weekday in the middle of a month during the off-season (September – May) for additional reduction of the moving costs.

18. Make sure you fully understand all the paperwork your mover provides before you agree to the terms with your signature.

19. **NEVER** commit the mistake of signing blank or incomplete documents.

20. Contact your moving company again about 2 weeks before your moving date to see if everything is going according to plan.

**Performing a DIY move**

1. Most self-moves are best suited for short distance relocation: are you moving locally?
2. Find enough strong and reliable friends who won’t back out in the last minute.
3. Book a rental truck from a reputable truck rental company as soon as possible.
4. Be smart when selecting the appropriate storage capacity (cubic feet) of the moving vehicle: 10’, 14’, 17’, 20’, 24’ or 26’.
5. Get appropriate moving equipment, such as a dolly, furniture moving pads, set of tools for disassembling furniture, drawers, doors, etc.
7. Purchase brand new boxes or get free moving containers in good condition from friends, local businesses or recycling centers.
8. Load the rented moving truck in a proper and safe manner.
9. Load the properly labeled boxes first, followed by your large furniture pieces and leave the heavy kitchen appliances for last.
10. Use plenty of moving blankets, bubble wrap or old pieces of clothing to protect your items during transport.
11. Secure all household items to the side walls of the truck to minimize undesired movement of your household goods while in transit.
12. Get a parking permit so that the rented moving truck can park right in front of your new home (especially true for bigger cities).

**Packing for a move**

1. If you can afford it, consider hiring professional packers (full-service move) for greater speed, safety, reliability and peace of mind.
2. Get appropriate packing supplies either from your movers or from an office supply store: moving boxes, packing paper, bubble wrap, packing tape, etc.
3. Go through each room and compile a detailed inventory of your entire household.
4. Note down any possessions with special packing or handling requirements.
5. Consider purchasing adequate insurance for your valuable possessions.
6. Decide the fate of each and every item in your home well before Moving day.
7. Sell (online or at a moving sale), give away to friends or family, donate to charity or throw away all the items you won’t be needing anymore.
8. Set aside the items you’re taking with you and get them ready for packing.
9. Start packing from the rooms you use least frequently (attic, garage, basement, guest rooms) to avoid cluttering your home.
10. Prepare your largest household goods for packing first and then think about how to pack your smaller items.
12. Pack a survival kit – an “Open First” box with absolute essentials which you’ll need on your last day in your place or during your first day in your new home.
13. Make sure you pack your valuables securely and keep them with you during all stages of your relocation.
14. Do not waste your time, energy or money packing any household goods which movers are prohibited from transporting (non-allowable items).
15. Use up, give away or sell such prohibited items or find an alternative transportation method for the ones you do want to keep.
16. Prepare to ship your pet to another state or get him ready for the long trip in the family car.
17. Pack safely the select few plants you do wish to take with you for trouble-free transportation across the country.
18. Label at least two sides of each packed box with vital information, such as content, destination room or special instructions.
19. Consider placing color codes (labels, stickers, etc.) on your packed boxes for easier identification during the sorting and unpacking processes.
20. Make sure your large furniture pieces (beds, wardrobes, dressers, bookcases, desks, etc.) are fully or partially disassembled at least a few days before Moving day.
21. Don’t leave any packing jobs, no matter how small they may seem, for the day when things tend to get rather chaotic – Moving day.

22. Get extra packing help from friends or professional packers if you’ve fallen behind schedule.

23. Once finished packing, keep, recycle or give away any remaining packing supplies.

24. Throw away all the garbage left from packing and clean up your place thoroughly.

**Organization tasks**

1. Create a moving file (binder) and keep inside it all the important moving paperwork that will surely be generated: contracts, agreements, checklist, inventory lists, receipts, records, notes, etc.

2. Obtain your child’s school records or arrange for their transfer directly to the respective new school in your destination town or city.

3. Go to your family physician and dentist, and request any required documents for finding a health-care provider in your new city.

4. Take your pet for a full medical checkup and, while at the vet’s office, ask for your animal friend’s immunization record.

5. Change your address at your post office in person or online at [https://www.usps.com/umove/](https://www.usps.com/umove/) to save valuable time.

6. Notify close friends and important institutions of your address change over the phone, via email or through your preferred social network.

7. Cancel all your subscriptions to newspapers, magazines or delivery services.

8. Contact your utility companies (electricity, water, gas, telephone, Internet, heating, etc.) and arrange for the disconnection of your utilities at your old home.

9. Contact your insurance company and cancel your soon-to-be old policies.

10. Similarly, don’t forget to get in touch with the utility providers in your new city and arrange the connection of services, ideally a couple of days before the move-in date.

11. Have your car serviced at an authorized service station if you plan to drive to your new home.

12. Complete any property repairs if you wish to sell your home for top dollar or get back your security deposit problem-free.

13. If at all possible, visit your new residence and note down anything you think may be relevant to the move.

14. Measure the sizes of your largest furniture pieces and see how they will fit into the room dimensions of your new place.
15. Talk with your children about the upcoming changes and discuss any moving issues that may be troubling them.

16. Plan your route well and arrange for places to rest or even spend the night if you’re driving to your new residence.

17. Find a trustworthy babysitter to keep your small baby safe during the day when anything can happen - Moving day.

18. Similarly, find someone to take care of your pet for you on the actual day of the move.

19. Contact the building management and reserve the (freight) elevator for both the move-out and move-in dates.

20. Pay up any remaining bills and keep the receipts in the moving file.

21. Don’t forget to return any books or DVDs you may have borrowed from friends or the library.

22. Defrost and clean up your refrigerator or/and fridge at least 24 hours before Moving day.

23. Find time to visit your favorite neighbors and say your proper goodbyes.

24. Ask a reliable neighbor to forward your mail to your new address and leave some cash for the expenses.

25. Make sure your cell phone is operational and the fully charged battery will last in the next few days.

26. Go to bed early on the day before Moving day in order to have the stamina to survive the longest and most stressing day of a move.

Moving Day

1. Wake up early, take a deep breath and do your best to get in the right mental state for the most feared day of the entire moving process.

2. Try to keep your energy and concentration elevated throughout the moving day.

3. Do one final inspection of your home and make sure nothing is left behind.

4. Welcome your movers at the agreed hour and let them do their job.

5. Don’t forget to provide your moving team with free access to water and offer to buy them lunch if necessary.

6. Make sure your valuable items and important documents are kept safe and away from the movers.

7. Be extra careful whenever you are asked to sign a document.

8. Keep your small children and pets safe in a separate room away from the moving chaos.

9. Confirm that the moving company has your phone number, exact address of your new home and detailed directions how to get there.

10. Be present and alert when the movers are loading your household items into the moving truck.
11. Make sure your place is clean and in perfect condition before you go away.
12. Take photos of your entire house or apartment as proof of its tip-top shape.
13. Check whether all the windows and doors are closed and locked securely before leaving your home for good.
14. Check whether the electricity, water and gas supplies are safely switched off.
15. Have a safe and pleasant drive or flight to your new home.

**After The Move**

1. Check whether all utilities are properly connected and functional.
2. Read the utility meters in your home and note down their readings.
3. Take plenty of photos of your new place before your movers arrive.
4. Unpack the essentials box or boxes.
5. Be present when the moving truck arrives at your new residence.
6. Check each unloaded moving box or household item against your inventory when it is carried inside your home.
7. Notify the moving company immediately if any box or item is broken or missing.
8. Give clear instructions to the movers where each box or item should be positioned inside the house or apartment.
9. If the preferred method of payment is cash, pay for the moving services according to your contractual conditions.
10. Prepare some extra money to tip your movers adequately if you're satisfied with their work.
11. Don't give the lump sum to the foreman or truck driver but tip each mover separately as appreciation of their efforts.
12. Wave your movers goodbye and begin the post-move organizations.
13. Create a detailed plan of your top priorities over the next first days and even weeks.
14. Start the arduous unpacking process by first unpacking and arranging the bedroom, bathroom and kitchen.
15. Call for backup if unpacking proves to be too much to handle by yourself.
16. Be sure to childproof your new home if you’ve moved house with a baby or toddler.
17. Place your dog, cat or other type of pet in a safe room to minimize the relocation shock.
18. Start looking for a job in your new city (if applicable).
19. Find a reputable school for your children.
20. Search for a new family physician, dentist and veterinarian in the new city.
21. Register your vehicle or renew your driver’s license at your local DMV office.
22. Explore and locate important landmarks within your new neighborhood and city.
23. Go introduce yourself to your new neighbors and consider inviting them over for a housewarming party.
24. Rate the services of your moving company by writing a moving review online.
25. Make new friends but don’t forget to keep in touch with your old pals either.
26. Moving to a new city can be a stepping stone to meeting new extraordinary people and embarking on new thrilling adventures, so smile and the world will smile back at you.

In order to write a successful end to your moving adventure:

- Calculate your moving costs in advance at: http://www.mymovingreviews.com/moving-cost-estimator.php
- Find reputable professional moving companies at: http://www.mymovingreviews.com/moving-companies.php
- Find more, much more useful information about your move at: http://www.mymovingreviews.com/move/