What To Pack When For Moving

Here is an exemplar packing timeline for moving that has proven to work really well. You may need to modify it a bit, of course, so that it can fit your particular needs and circumstances, but the suggested packing order will most certainly be of great benefit:

1) Four Weeks (Or More) Ahead Of Moving Day

You can pre-pack everything you are not going to use during the last month before your relocation:

- **Out-of-season items** – holiday decorations, clothes, shoes, and accessories that cannot be used until the next season;
- **Specialized tools and equipment** – all the gear you will not have an occasion to use in the time left until moving day (fishing gear, climbing gear, specific sports equipment, a number of specialized tools – leaf blower, electric drill, etc.);
- **Extra supplies** – all your spare sheets and blankets, table linens, towels, toiletries, office supplies etc.;
- **Collectibles** – photo albums, scrapbooks, figurines, miniatures, dolls, train models, art collections, coin collections, stamp collections, and any other objects you enjoy looking at but cannot use for any practical purposes.

2) Three Weeks Ahead Of Moving Day

At this point, you can pack all the non-essentials (things you won’t miss if they stay packed away in boxes for a few weeks). Such items include but are not limited to:

- **Artwork and decorations** – although your place will not be half as lovely without the framed pictures, vases, souvenirs, and other charming items used to set the atmosphere in your home, it is a good idea to pack all your decorative objects and artwork well in advance. Such pieces are usually very delicate and fragile, as well as extremely valuable - either because they are highly sentimental (family heirlooms) or quite expensive (pieces of art), so you will need a lot of time and focus to pack them properly and ensure their safety;

See also: [How to pack fragile items for shipping](#)

- **Books** – set your favorite reads apart and pack all the other books you intend to take to your new home as early as possible. Use high quality small sturdy boxes to make sure your library will survive the relocation in excellent condition;

See also: [How to pack books for moving](#)
• **CDs, DVDs, video games, hobby materials** – you won’t have the time to enjoy any of these in the hectic period prior to your move, so pack them all but a few favorites that will provide you with some entertainment and fun during the strenuous weeks of moving preparations;

• **Specialized kitchenware** – take the time to carefully pack all your fine china, crystal glasses, ice-cream cups, cake plates, condiment dishes, pie pans, cookie cutters, barbecue tongs, and other kitchen items that you use rarely or only on special occasions.

3) **Two Weeks Ahead Of Moving Day**

It is high time to pack any infrequently used items that are not in the moving boxes yet:

• **Games** - puzzles, board games, and toys (have your kids each choose a set of toys they want to keep out for the last few days and pack everything else);

Related: [How to move children’s toys](#)

• **Jewelry** – keep a few pieces you wear on a daily basis and pack all your other treasures with extra care;

Related: [How to best pack your jewelry for a move](#)

• **Office supplies** – leave out a few pens (or pencils) and a notebook and pack all the paper, envelopes, writing supplies, staplers, hole punchers, etc. you are shipping to your new home;

• **Linen closet** – keep one set of sheets and towels per person and pack everything else. You may also want to leave out some old blankets and sheets that can be used to wrap furniture pieces or to cover the floors and walls of your home on Moving day for added protection;

Related: [How to prevent property damage when moving out](#)

• **Any remaining miscellaneous items** – go through all the drawers, cabinets, closets, etc. in your home and make sure all the bric-a-brac you want to take with you is safely packed and ready for shipment.

4) **One Week Ahead Of Moving Day**

One week ahead of the Big day the clock will be ticking away faster than ever! Every single item you are not going to use during the next few days should go into the moving boxes at this final stage of your moving preparations:
• **Electronics** – pack all the electronic devises in your home except for your (and your family members’) telephones and your laptop (it can be used for everything – surfing the Internet, watching TV, listening to music, gaming, etc.);

See also: [How to pack electronics for moving](#)

• **Kitchen items** – take out some plastic utensils and pack all the dishes, glasses, cutlery, pots and pans, small kitchen devices, various food containers and any other items in your kitchen. Your life won’t be very convenient without them but packing the kitchen requires plenty of time and effort, so you shouldn’t wait until the last day to get down to this arduous task;

See also: [The appetizing guide to packing your kitchen for moving](#)

• **Laundry room** – put the last of your dirty clothes through the washer and pack up the place;

• **Clothes** - make sure every member of your family has enough clothes to last for the next few days and pack all your other garments (don’t forget to leave out some appropriate clothes to wear on Moving day);

See also: [How to best pack clothes for moving](#)

• **Medicines** – pack up all your remedies, except for the prescription medicines you take daily and your first-aid kit (which should travel with you);

• **Toiletries** – keep the most essential ones handy and pack the rest.

5) **1-2 days before Moving Day**

It is time to pack every last household item and possession of yours that will be shipped to your new home:

• **Furniture and appliances** – empty, clean, and pack all the household appliances and furniture pieces you are going to relocate;

See also: [How to pack kitchen appliances for moving](#)
[How to pack furniture for shipping](#)

• **Curtains, area rugs, and other furnishing;**

• **Any other miscellaneous items you kept out until the last moment** - the last of your clothes, jewelry, books, toys, kitchen utensils, etc.;

• **Basic tools** – pack up all your remaining tools but make sure you have easy access to a pair of scissors, a flashlight, a hammer, a screwdriver, a couple of nails and screws,
a tape measure, a pocket knife, and a duct tape, as you will most probably need them on Moving day;

- **Documents** – you should have collected and organized your documents a long time ago, so just check them out one final time and put them in a lockbox (or a document bag) that you will keep with you all the time.

See also: [Important documents to take when moving](#)

### 6) Moving day

When packing up your household, keep a few extra boxes and bags for the items you will have to take care of on Moving day itself:

- **Bed & bedding** - you will have no choice but to pack the sheets and blankets you slept in, as well as your bed, on the morning of Moving day;

See also: [How to move a king-size bed and mattress](#)

- **Toiletries and medicines** – it’s time to put everything you have used during the last couple of days into your essentials box;

- **Kids’ items and pets’ items** – your little ones and your animal friends need their daily routines, so their comforters and specialized care items will be among the last items to be packed for moving;

- **Snacks and drinks** – you should have either consumed or given away any perishable food in the weeks prior to your relocation, so all you need to do now is pack some light snacks and drinks to keep your energy up on the Big day;

- **Cleaning supplies** – when the movers leave, you’ll have to clean your old property one last time. Make sure you have the means to do so.

See also: [Move-out cleaning checklist](#)

Have one final look around to make sure you haven’t forgotten anything, take your valuables and your open-first box, and have a safe trip to your new home and your new life!