

# Moving checklist for renters

## What should I do to prepare for my move?

Moving can be an exciting but stressful process. Staying organized and preparing for your move early will help you avoid last-minute chaos. Here are some moving tips and checklists to keep you prepared from start to finish.

### 8 weeks before moving day: planning early and avoiding last-minute costs

- Set a realistic moving budget (include movers, truck rental, deposits, utility setup and potential overlap in rent)
- Review your lease for:
  - ✓ Required notice period
  - ✓ Move-out cleaning expectations
  - ✓ Security deposit terms
- Decide how you'll move: professional movers, truck rental or help from friends
- Start decluttering and packing a little each day
- Collect free boxes from liquor stores, grocery stores or office supply stores
- Pick up packing supplies (tape, labels, mattress covers)
- Make a private list of valuables and where they're packed
- Research your new neighborhood:
  - ✓ Grocery stores, medical providers, transit, schools (if applicable)
  - ✓ Nearest police, fire and emergency services
- Make time to see friends and family before the move
- Create a moving playlist to make packing more fun

### 6 weeks before moving day: locking in your moving plan

- Research and compare moving companies or truck rentals
- Get multiple estimates and confirm:
  - ✓ What's included
  - ✓ Insurance coverage
  - ✓ Extra fees or deposits

- Book your mover or reserve a truck
- Begin planning electricity for your new apartment
- Continue packing non-essential items
- Take note of building rules:
  - ✓ Approved moving hours
  - ✓ Elevator reservations
  - ✓ Parking or loading zones

### **4 weeks before moving day: addresses, records and services**

- Pack items you don't use often
- Update your address with:
  - ✓ Banks and credit cards
  - ✓ Insurance providers
  - ✓ Subscriptions and memberships
- Organize important documents:
  - ✓ Lease agreements
  - ✓ Renter's insurance
  - ✓ Medical and school records (if needed)
- Schedule utilities:
  - ✓ Electricity for your new address
  - ✓ Water, gas or trash if required
- Secure internet and cable service for move-in
- Back up computers and important digital files
- Submit a USPS change of address request

### **3 weeks before moving day: downsizing and logistics**

- Sell, donate or discard items you don't want to take
- Use or donate unopened pantry items
- Measure your new apartment and confirm furniture will fit
- Schedule parking, loading docks or elevators at both locations
- Confirm move-in instructions with your new property manager

- Request time off work if needed
- Confirm renter's insurance coverage for your new address

## **2 weeks before moving day: final arrangements**

- Continue packing and label boxes clearly by room
- Set aside a week's worth of clothes for easy access
- Refill prescriptions and gather medications
- Plan meals to use up fridge and freezer items
- Schedule childcare or pet care for moving day
- Confirm electricity start date for your new apartment
- Arrange the date your current utilities should be turned off

## **1 week before moving day: damage protection and deposit prep**

- Finish packing all non-daily items
- Pack an "essentials box" and keep it with you (not on the truck)
- Take photos and videos of your current apartment (every room, timestamped)
- Schedule your final walkthrough with the landlord or property manager
- Review lease requirements for cleaning and key return
- Donate nonperishables to a local food pantry
- Place screws and fasteners in labeled bags and tape them to furniture
- Hire cleaners if required by your lease

## **Moving day: tracking, access and safety**

- Pack a bag of essentials for the first few nights:
  - ✓ Clothes
  - ✓ Toiletries
  - ✓ Chargers
  - ✓ Medications
- Pillows, blankets and basic kitchen supplies
- Keep trash bags and paper towels handy

- Do a final walkthrough before leaving:
  - ✓ Check cabinets and closets
  - ✓ Lock doors and windows
  - ✓ Turn off lights, fans and appliances
  - ✓ Return keys, fobs or garage remotes as instructed
- Tip movers if appropriate

### **Post-move checklist: settling in**

- Confirm utilities are working properly
- Unpack kitchen and bathroom essentials first
- Go grocery shopping and restock basics
- Save move-in photos in case of lease disputes
- Change your address in remaining apps and services
- Get familiar with your new building and neighbors

### **What not to pack to keep these items close by**

- Important documents (ID, passport, lease paperwork)
- Checkbook, credit cards and cash
- Jewelry and irreplaceable items
- Phone, laptop and chargers
- Medications and vitamins
- Toilet paper and essential toiletries
- A change of clothes for each person
- Snacks and water (plus food for pets)
- A child's favorite toy or comfort item
- Flashlight, tape measure and basic toolkit
- Cleaning supplies and trash bags