

5 TIPS FOR MOVING

“I AM ALL THE PLACES IN WHICH I’VE LEFT MY HEART.”

MARINA SOFIA

TIP 1: GET YOUR HOME READY FOR SHOWINGS

Depersonalize your home as much as possible. Remove family photos and clear off counters to show off all the counter space. Hide as much as you can, such as products in the shower and stacks of paper in the office. It’s inconvenient having things stored away, but doing this will make your home a blank slate for prospective buyers.

TIP 2: DECLUTTER

Start editing your closet, pantry, bathroom cabinets, and storage rooms. Toss or donate as much as possible because moving boxes are expensive, so the less stuff you have to pack, the better! As soon as you find out you may move, start the editing process. And don’t just do this once, but go through several times until you feel you can’t remove any more un-needed items. Really think twice when going shopping for groceries or anywhere you normally impulse buy. Think of how you will have to put that in a box and take it on your move before you put it in your cart. Try to finish everything in your pantry because many movers won’t take open bottles of food.

TIP 3: CREATE A MOVING CALENDAR

Timing is everything and the only way you can organize properly is by paying attention to the timing and trying to control that aspect as much as you possibly can. Create a calendar specific for your move. Have goals in mind based on the closing of your new home, the closing of your old home and communicate these goal dates to whoever you need to and as often as possible. This may be communicating to your realtor that you want the buyers to move in one week after you close on your new home. This will give you a little extra wiggle room to get everything moved out of your old house before someone is waiting to get in.

TIP 4: KEEP A VERY DETAILED LIST

Whether you like digital lists or printed lists, keep track of what bills you need to change addresses on, when utilities need to get hooked up, and what automatic deliveries need to be updated. If you don’t have a place to add things as you think of them and check them off when they’re done, then your move may turn into a hot mess!

TIP 5: PLANNING FOR THE PETS

If you’re moving with pets, think about all the aspects of the move and what they might be thinking as moving day approaches and how you can make it less stressful for them. Territory and scents are really important to cats, so give cats time to explore a new home on their own terms. Your dog may have a favorite toy or blanket that you could bring along for the journey. Try to minimize any stressors, such as packing or unpacking by finding a quiet place for your pet during all the commotion.

MOVING CHECKLIST

“IF YOUR WORLD DOESN'T ALLOW YOU TO DREAM, MOVE TO ONE WHERE YOU CAN.”

BILLY IDOL

4 WEEKS BEFORE MOVING DAY

- Book a moving company (get at least 3 estimates)
- Make an inventory of everything to be moved
- Donate any unwanted clothing or furniture
- Contact insurance companies to transfer policies
- Request change of address kit from post office
- Prepare a list of friends and businesses who should be notified of your upcoming move
- If you have children, work with current and future schools to transfer records
- Arrange cut-off/activation dates for utility companies:
 - Telephone
 - Cable
 - Gas/Electricity/Water

2 WEEKS BEFORE MOVING DAY

- Purchase any moving supplies
- Make an appointment with a service technician to prepare major appliances for shipment
- Use up food in refrigerator and pantry
- Begin packing not frequently used items
- Put in vacation time for move at work and schedule babysitter, if necessary
- Pack any valuables you don't want to risk being lost or damaged and plan to keep these close
- Dispose of flammables that can't be transported:
 - Aerosol Cans
 - Cleaning Fluid
 - Ammunition
 - Fireworks
 - Household Liquids
 - Oil Cans/Paint/Thinner/Propane Tanks

1 WEEK BEFORE MOVING DAY

- Fill prescriptions and have them packed in your suitcase
- Withdraw cash for tips for movers
- Clean out the refrigerator/plan to defrost before move
- Drain equipment: water hoses, propane tank, gas/oil, lawnmowers
- Schedule to have utilities turn on at your new home
- Hire a cleaning company if you need to do a move out clean
- Back up all computers if they are being shipped

DAY OF MOVE

- Designate boxes and items as "last load" items
- All loose items are packed into boxes with the top closed
- All contents are removed from appliances
- Roll out carpet/floor protectors

Prepare an essentials box:

- Toilet Paper (unopened)
- Snacks/Instant Coffee
- Scissors/Pocket Knife
- Garbage Bags
- Change of Clothes
- Dish Soap and Towel
- Pet Food and Dish
- Flashlight
- Portable Tool Kit
- Towels
- All-Purpose Cleaner (unopened)
- Mug/Plate/Cutlery
- Important Records/Documents

Before you leave the house:

- Water shut off
- A/C shut off
- Lights turned off
- Windows shut and locked
- Surrender house keys
- Check for items left behind
