

Step-by-Step Guide to a Successful Cross-Country Move

Week 8–6 Before Moving: Plan, Research, and Budget

- Research your new city or state. Learn about neighborhoods, schools, healthcare, commute times, and local amenities to find the best area for your lifestyle.
- Set a realistic moving budget. Account for professional movers or truck rental, packing materials, travel costs, insurance, and unexpected expenses.
- Decide on your moving method. Choose between full-service movers, DIY truck rental, shipping services, or portable moving containers depending on your schedule and budget.
- Start decluttering. Go room by room to sort what to keep, donate, sell, or recycle. The lighter your load, the less you'll pay for transportation.
- Gather important records. Collect medical, school, and financial documents in one secure folder for easy access.

Week 5–4 Before Moving: Organize and Book Services

- Hire your moving company early. Confirm dates, services, and insurance. For self-moves, reserve a rental truck and equipment.
- Stock up on packing materials. Collect sturdy boxes, bubble wrap, tape, and markers — many local stores give boxes away for free.
- Begin packing non-essential items. Seasonal clothing, decorations, books, and extra kitchenware can go first.
- Update your address. Submit a change-of-address form through USPS and notify your bank, employer, insurance providers, and subscription services.
- Plan your utilities transfer. Schedule the disconnection of current services and connection of new ones to avoid gaps.

Week 3–2 Before Moving: Pack, Prepare, and Confirm

- Pack strategically. Label each box with contents and destination room to simplify unpacking.
- Create an essentials box. Include toiletries, clothes, medications, chargers, important tools, and vital documents.
- Plan your travel route. Arrange transportation for your family, pets, and vehicles if needed.
- Confirm details with movers. Double-check pickup times, delivery dates, and payment terms.
- Measure furniture and doorways. Ensure all large items fit through your new home's entrances.

Week 1 Before Moving: Finalize Everything

- Pack remaining items. Leave only daily necessities unpacked until the last day.
- Clean your home. Deep clean all rooms and repair minor damages, especially if you have a rental.
- Prepare appliances. Defrost the fridge, drain water hoses, and secure cords and doors.
- Review paperwork. Verify moving contracts, insurance coverage, and payment confirmations.
- Prepare for the move-out inspection. Document the property's condition with photos.

Moving Week: Execute the Move

- Be present on moving day. Make sure the moving crew or truck arrives as scheduled and oversee loading.
- Do a final walkthrough. Check closets, drawers, and storage areas to ensure nothing is left behind.
- Keep essentials accessible. Carry valuables, documents, medication, and chargers with you.
- Travel safely. Plan your route, book accommodations if driving long-distance, and keep emergency supplies on hand.

Week 1 After Moving: Settle Into Your New Home

- Unpack essentials first. Focus on bedrooms, bathrooms, and the kitchen to make the first days comfortable.
- Install and test utilities. Confirm that water, power, Wi-Fi, and gas services are active and functioning.
- Explore your new neighborhood. Introduce yourself to neighbors, find local stores, and locate nearby parks and clinics.
- Register and update information. Update your driver's license, voter registration, and vehicle registration if needed.
- Make it feel like home. Arrange furniture, hang artwork, and create cozy corners that reflect your style.

Main

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