



**NEW HOME, NEW
BEGINNINGS:
SETTLING INTO
YOUR NEW SPACE**

ABSTRACT

"New Home, New Beginnings: Settling into Your New Space" is a comprehensive guide designed to assist individuals in successfully transitioning into their new homes and creating a warm and welcoming environment. Moving into a new house presents a myriad of opportunities, challenges, and exciting possibilities. This PDF aims to offer practical advice, expert tips, and creative ideas to help homeowners make their new space truly feel like a home.

INTRODUCTION

Whether you're moving across the country or to the neighboring town, preparing for a move can be incredibly stressful and overwhelming. Between packing boxes, decluttering, finding reliable movers and possibly getting your current home ready for sale, there seems to be an endless amount of details to think about.

That's why we've created these guides to help you stay organized, know what needs to be taken care of and to keep everything on track so that your move is as stress-free a process as possible!

I. How to Organize, Plan and Prepare for a Household Move

How to Prepare and Plan Your Move

As soon as you decide that you are moving, create a plan. You can start with a preliminary plan and fill it in as you find out more details and figure out a schedule and timeline. Think about what needs to be done in your current home, whether that's decluttering, packing or any small renovations that you need to take care of in the case that you are selling your current home.



Think about a budget and estimate what your moving costs will be; consider the cost of everything from packing tape, bubble wrap and boxes to moving company fees. Figure out what you need to purchase for your new home to be move-in ready, and note down details like when you will receive the keys and be able to start moving in so that you can create a schedule that will help you stay on track.

Should You Hire Movers or Move Yourself?

There are several different options when it comes to moving all your possessions. To decide which option is best for you, consider the following questions. How far away is your new home? How much stuff do you need to move? Are there many heavy, family heirloom type pieces that you need to move or mostly small, apartment-sized furniture?

You can take the DIY route and pack and move everything yourself, in which case you need to budget for packing and possibly rental moving vehicle expenses. If you'd rather not do that, you can either pack up your home yourself and hire a professional moving company to do the moving portion for you, or hire a company that will do both the packing and moving for you.

How to Create a Timeline and Schedule

There are so many moving parts when it comes to a move, which is why creating a timeline and a schedule is crucial to keeping your sanity and making sure you don't forget to do something.



Create a week by week schedule, then as it gets closer to the day when the truck arrives, create a day by day schedule. Include what room you're going to pack on what day, when you need to hire a moving truck, days that you may need contractors to come and do repairs on your current home, and every other detail you can think of that will ensure you stay organized.

A Quick Guide to Getting Started and Completing a Move

A move is a big project and it can be difficult to know where to start. Our step by step guide will help you get started and guide you through the process, giving you plenty of helpful tips that will save you time and energy. Like labeling boxes! It may seem obvious, but forgetting to do it will cause you such a headache when you're trying to unpack your kitchen dishes but can't seem to find them. These simple steps will help you get organized so your boxes are packed and ready for the moving truck.

How to Sort Your Stuff and Decide What to Pack and Move

There's no better time than a big move to go through all your stuff. It's one of those tasks that we usually put off until it has to be done, but make sure to sort through everything before you move so that you're not moving tons of extra boxes filled with items that will be thrown out anyway.

Decide what you want to keep, what you want to give away to friends and family, what can be donated and what no longer works and just needs to be thrown out. This can be a long process, so make sure to give yourself enough time and use this guide to help you figure out what to pack and what to get rid of.

How to Get Rid of Stuff You Don't Want to Move

After going through everything (congratulations, that's a big task!), the next task is figuring out what to do with items you're not taking to your new home. We've compiled this list of the five best apps that you can use to sell items you don't need anymore to make it easier for you.



Packing Supplies You Will Need to Pack Your House

If you're not exactly sure what all you'll need for your move, don't worry, we have a checklist of all the moving supplies you'll need right here for you. There are the more obvious items like scissors and moving boxes, but also all those things that are easy to forget, like bathroom essentials to quickly have on hand in your new home or a couple simple all-purpose cleaning supplies and trash bags that will come in handy at the new place.

II. The Ultimate Moving Checklist and To-Do Timeline

Whether your last move was across the country or across the street, it probably ended with two words: "Never again!" But you don't always have the luxury of staying in the same place forever. Sooner or later, you're bound to find yourself surrounded by cardboard boxes and packing tape—again.



To make things smoother this go-around, look no further than this moving to-do list that details not only what needs to get done, but the right time to do different tasks to minimize stress. Print it out, check every item off week by week, and maybe the two words that end your next move will simply be "I'm home."

Two Months Before

Sort and purge

Go through every room of your house and decide what you'd like to keep and what you can get rid of. Think about whether any items will require special packing or extra insurance coverage.

Research movers

Start investigating moving company options. Do not rely on a quote over the phone; request an on-site estimate. Get an estimate in writing from each company, and make sure it has a USDOT number on it. This certifies that the company is registered with the U.S. Department of Transportation and bound by its safety standards.

Create a moving binder

Use this binder to keep track of everything—all your estimates, your receipts, and an inventory of all the items you're moving.

Organize school records

Go to your children's school and arrange for their records to be transferred to their new school district.

Six Weeks Before

Order supplies

Order moving boxes and other supplies such as tape, Bubble Wrap, and permanent markers. Don't forget to order specialty containers, such as dish barrels or wardrobe boxes.



Use it or lose it

Start using up things that you don't want to move, like frozen or perishable foods and cleaning supplies.

Take measurements

Check room dimensions at your new home, if possible, and make sure larger pieces of furniture will fit through the door.

One Month Before

Choose your mover and confirm the arrangements

Select a company and get written confirmation of your moving date, costs, and other details.

Begin packing

Start packing the things that you use most infrequently, such as the waffle iron and croquet set. While packing, note items of special value that might require additional insurance from your moving company. Make sure to declare, in writing, any items valued over \$100 per pound, such as a computer.

Label

Clearly label and number each box with its contents and the room it's destined for. This will help you to keep an inventory of your belongings. Pack and label "essentials" boxes of items you'll need right away.

Separate valuables

Add items such as jewelry and important files to a safe box that you'll personally transport to your new home. Make sure to put the mover's estimate in this box. You'll need it for reference on moving day.

Do a change of address

Go to your local post office and fill out a change-of-address form, or do it online at usps.gov. But in case there are stragglers, it's always wise to ask a close neighbor to look out for mail after you've moved. Check in with them two weeks after the move, and again two weeks after that.



Notify important parties

Alert the following of your move: banks, brokerage firms, your employer's human resources department, magazine and newspapers you subscribe to, and credit card, insurance, and utility companies.

Forward medical records

Arrange for medical records to be sent to any new healthcare providers or obtain copies of them yourself.

Two Weeks Before

Arrange to be off from work on moving day

Notify your office that you plan to supervise the move and therefore need the day off.

Get a tune-up

Take your car to a garage, and ask the mechanic to consider what services might be needed if you're moving to a new climate.

Clean out your safe-deposit box

If you'll be changing banks, remove the contents of your safe-deposit box and put them in the safe box that you'll take with you on moving day.

Contact the moving company

Reconfirm the arrangements.

One Week Before

Refill prescriptions

Stock up on prescriptions you'll need during the next couple of weeks.

Pack your suitcases

Aim to finish your general packing a few days before your moving date. Then pack suitcases for everyone in the family with enough clothes to wear for a few days.



A Few Days Before

Defrost the freezer

If your refrigerator is moving with you, make sure to empty, clean, and defrost it at least 24 hours before moving day.

Double-check the details

Reconfirm the moving company's arrival time and other specifics and make sure you have prepared exact, written directions to your new home for the staff. Include contact information, such as your cell phone number.

Plan for the payment

If you haven't already arranged to pay your mover with a credit card, get a money order, cashier's check, or cash for payment and tip. If the staff has done a good job, 10 to 15 percent of the total fee is a good tip. If your move was especially difficult, you might tip each mover up to \$100. Don't forget that refreshments are always appreciated.

Moving Day

Verify

Make sure that the moving truck that shows up is from the company you hired: The USDOT number painted on its side should match the number on the estimate you were given. Scams are not unheard-of.

Take inventory

Before the movers leave, sign the bill of lading/inventory list and keep a copy.

III. 12 Common Moving Expenses You'll Need To Consider



When planning a move, it is common to underestimate the total cost of the process. You may think about the cost of obvious items, like the moving truck and packing supplies, but there is much more to consider. This guide of common moving expenses will help you plan ahead and stick to your budget.

Common Moving Expenses to Prepare For

Moving takes a lot of time and, in some cases, a lot of money. As you move from one place to the next, you should plan for the following expenses:

1. Moving Truck Rental

If you plan to DIY your move, the moving truck rental will be your main cost to consider. A moving truck costs anywhere from **\$20 to \$100 per day** to rent. You also need to factor in mileage costs and other included fees. If you are looking to save money, consider using a cheap moving truck rental company for more bang for your buck.

2. Moving Supplies

At a minimum, you will need moving boxes and packing tape for your move. There are plenty of other essential moving supplies that might make your mover a little easier and keep your items better protected during transit. Items like box cutters, dollies or hand carts will help with the moving process, and items like bubble wrap, furniture pads and moving blankets will help keep your possessions safe.



3. Professional Movers

If you prefer to hire professionals to transport your belongings, plan ahead for the cost of movers. Professional movers tend to cost between **\$800 and \$2,500**, with an average cost of **\$1,400**. The cost increases even further if the move is long-distance. Before hiring movers, be sure to vet the moving company and get all of the moving terms in a written contract

4. Packing and Unpacking Services

Packing is not everyone's cup of tea. Additionally, mobility issues may prevent some people from being able to gather and pack up all of their belongings. Fortunately, certain moving companies also offer full-service packing. The cost to put your items in boxes or wrap them in packaging for safe travel is usually billed at an hourly rate.

5. Cleaning Services

You may need to account for the cost of cleaning services, whether at your old place or new. If you are short on time, hiring professional cleaners is a good solution for making sure your past apartment or home is ready for its new owners or that your new place is clean and ready for your furniture to be moved in. A cleaning company will usually charge anywhere from **\$25 to \$80 per hour** of cleaning.

6. Professional Service Tips

If you do end up hiring professional movers, cleaners or another type of service professional, don't forget to tip. While not necessarily required, if the service was well performed and it helped you out immensely in your overall moving process, a tip is likely warranted. A suggested amount to tip movers is **\$72 to \$144** for a three-person crew for two hours.

7. Fragile Item Moving

Moving fragile items requires additional effort, which you will ultimately pay for. Professional movers will wrap fragile items, like pianos and heirloom furniture, with blankets and furniture pads, then use extra care when transporting the item. This process will take a little extra time than moving standard items.



8. Moving Insurance

Moving insurance can give you peace of mind throughout the entire moving process. There are a few different types of to choose from.. The most common options are general moving insurance that covers any loss or damage to your possessions during the move as well as moving truck damage and liability insurance. In most cases, the cost of these coverages is not substantial, and it is usually better to pay the fee and be protected.

9. Storage Unit Rental

You may need a short-term or long-term storage option for your furniture while you are in between places. The cost of a storage unit ranges from **\$90 to \$300 per month**, with an average cost of **\$190 per month**. There is a wide variety of storage unit sizes available, from 5 feet by 5 feet up to 10 feet by 30 feet and beyond.

10. Personal Vehicle Transport

For most people, the only possession that doesn't fit on the moving truck is their personal vehicle. If you will be driving your car to the new place, don't forget to account for the gas money. If you will be driving the moving truck or flying to your new place, you may have to figure out a way to transport your personal vehicle from point A to point B, like vehicle shipping. The average cost to ship a car is **\$1,650**.

11. Move-In Expenses

Before officially moving into your new house, condo or apartment, you might need to pay one or more of the following move-in expenses:

Security deposit: If you are renting, a landlord will likely require a security deposit to cover any damages to the property.

First month's rent or first mortgage payment: Your landlord may also require paying the first month's rent upfront. If you have purchased your property, be sure to budget for the first mortgage payment.

Small repairs in new home: A new home might require a few repairs before you can officially start living there.

Renter's or homeowner's insurance: Be prepared to pay upfront for the cost of renter's or homeowner's insurance.

Moving Companies By State

12. Long-Distance Moving Costs

If you are moving out of the state, across the country or even across the world, there are a few more expenses to consider as part of your moving process.

Car license and registration fees: Before you can officially coin yourself a resident of a new state, you will need to transfer your license and register your vehicle. Prices for this vary from state to state.



Travel costs: You might need to fly to your new state or country or stay overnight in a hotel before you can move into your new place. Consider these travel costs, as well as food and fuel, a part of your move.

Short-term housing: Sometimes, when moving to a faraway place, you may need temporary housing while you look for a new place to live. If this is the case, plan to pay for a couple of weeks or even a couple of months of short-term housing until you find your permanent residence.

IV. 6 Reasons Why You Don't Ask Friends To Help You Move

Are you hoping to save time and money by asking friends to help you move homes? Moving homes in Brisbane is challenging, but it becomes even tougher when you decide to get your friends to help out. This is because they have no experience and don't know how to pack and move your items properly and will probably end up costing you a lot of time and money.



Hiring professional removalists in Brisbane who are experienced and know how to pack for a move and can load and unload them properly is better. Here are six reasons why asking friends, over these professionals, to help you move is a bad idea:

1. Friends Are Inexperienced

- Even though you love your friends, they are not the best at packing and moving things.
- They have no experience, so it is hard for them to organise and pack all your items.
- They might not know how to pack your fragile items, which might be a big disaster on moving day.
- Also, they do not know how to pack and carry heavy furniture items like beds and cupboards.
- You should use a removalist to disassemble and load all your furniture items onto your moving truck.

2. Friends Don't Have Timings

Moving homes is tough, and you might want to get it over with as fast as possible. But if you ask your friends to help, you will have to consider the schedules and timings of all your friends.

Most of them might not be available at the crack of dawn, and this could delay your move. You might have to move at a time suitable for all your friends, but that might not be your ideal time.

3. There Might Be Accidents



- Even if your friends have helped move your items once or twice, they are still not experienced enough to pack and carry fragile items.
- These items include antiques, glassware, crockery, Chinaware and specialty items that must be carefully packed.
- They are also challenging to move as they can break easily.
- There is a high chance of some injuries and accidents happening when you move house with friends as they might not move these items correctly.

- Your best option is to hire expert removalists in Brisbane as they are professionals who are well-trained in packing any fragile item.
- They also have insurance, so if by chance anything is damaged on the move, it is covered by the company.

4. Someone Could Get Hurt

Along with fragile items breaking or getting damaged, your friends can also injure themselves while moving homes in Australia. This is especially true if they are moving heavy pieces of furniture and lifting them incorrectly.

They could seriously injure themselves and others, so it is best to hire removalist services in Brisbane to do the same. They know all the proper techniques and tactics to lift and load heavy items onto the moving vehicle. They also have worker cover insurance in case they get injured. You won't have to pay for any injuries as the moving company will cover all these costs.

5. There Could Be Arguments

Moving homes is stressful and can get even more stressful when you don't have professional help. Your friends want to help, but sometimes they might have a different way of doing things from what you expect. This could lead to clashes and conflicts on moving days.

They might also be casual about the move and make you anxious about meeting the deadline. This could cause several arguments that might affect your friendship. That is why it is better to let professionals handle your packing and moving to reduce the frustration of moving day.

6. You Might Have To Tend To Their Needs

With professionals, it is easy to sit back and let them do the job. They will handle the whole thing, and you won't have to get involved. This will also help you concentrate on tasks like changing your address and paying all your bills on time.

But with friends, it becomes more personal, and while concentrating on the move, you might also have to tend to their needs. You will have to get lunch and dinner for them and refreshments from time to time.



Plus, some of them might also want to chat while moving house in Brisbane, which could affect your concentration, and you could make a mistake. That is why it is not a good idea to get friends involved in your house move and let professional removalists Brisbane handle the same.

The above points tell you why it is essential for you to let professionals handle your move to a new home as they are experienced and trained to do so. Friends might not be the best to help you move homes, but you can spend time with them to destress while these professionals move your things.

V. 10 Tips for Hiring a Professional Mover



Imagine this scenario. You choose a moving company, set up a date for pickup and delivery, and sign a contract with the movers. A few weeks later, you're standing at your new house and all of your things are locked inside a truck out front. The movers have piled a bunch of extra charges onto your bill and are telling you that if you don't pay the fees, you won't get your things. The people you thought were going to carry the heavy stuff and make your moving day so much easier are now holding your belongings hostage.

Unfortunately, these types of things happen. So you need to be ultra careful about choosing a moving company and very vigilant about managing your contract with that company. Read more tips on the next 10 pages.

Research Companies

First things first -- do some informal research to see which moving companies do quality work. Send out an e-mail to friends to see if they have any recommendations or warnings about moving companies they've used in the past. If the companies you're interested in offer references, call those references.

Once you narrow down your choices, check with the Better Business Bureau about any moving companies you're considering. If one of those companies has had a number of complaints filed against it, then that's not the company you want to use.

Get More Than One Estimate

For interstate moves, charges are based on the weight of the items to be moved, the distance to be moved, packing and other services. Get two or three estimates well in advance of your move. You may even want to meet with a relocation consultant in person and have him or her come out to your home.

That way, the consultant can take a look at your belongings and make a solid estimate on how much it will cost you to transport them. When you speak with the moving companies, ask whether their estimates are binding or nonbinding. Do not accept an estimate over the phone.

Make Sure the Mover is Aware of Everything that Must Be Moved

Make sure the mover is perfectly aware of everything that has to be moved. And here's why: The cost will increase if anything is added to the shipment that was not included in the estimate. Also, make sure the mover is aware of any special circumstances that might make the move challenging. For example, is there a possibility that the moving truck will have a hard time parking at your new place? If the mover has to park far away, you may be charged extra money for the walking that movers have to do to get your things to your new place.



Get Insurance

If you have renters or homeowners insurance, then your belongings are insured when they're at your home, but not when they're on the road between homes. So for a long commute, you might want to consider purchasing moving or relocation insurance.

Unless you pay the movers to pack your belongings, it's unlikely that they will be insured against breakage caused by improper packing. If you want to ensure coverage for broken items, you can always ask the movers to pack your belongings. There are several types of insurance packages to purchase. The moving company is liable for a certain dollar amount multiplied by the weight of the shipment, up to a certain amount.

Pay Close Attention to the Contract

The mover will issue you a bill of lading, a legal contract between the customer and the mover. Be sure to read it carefully and make sure you understand the agreement before you sign it.

Then, be sure to hang on to your copy of the bill of lading. If something goes wrong, you'll want to have it handy to state your case. And once you sign the bill of lading, you must pay what it says you're supposed to pay. Look for the bill of lading to include the following: name and address of mover, the type of payment method it accepts, time of pickup, minimum and maximum amounts to pay and other details about payment.

Ask Questions About the Contract

Make sure that any contract you enter into covers rates and charges, the mover's liability for your possessions, dates for pickup and delivery, and claims protection. Read the document carefully. Don't worry about making the moving company wait while you look the contract over to make sure you understand everything that's

included. Moving company scams are not uncommon, so you want to make sure a moving company is on the up and up before you sign a contract.

If something in the contract looks fishy, trust your instincts and ask questions. You don't want your moving company to hold your things hostage and force you to pay extra costs.

Move During the Winter

If you have the option to move between October and April, you may be able to receive a better price. If your move is scheduled between June and September, the busiest time for movers, be sure to call well in advance for estimates and to settle a contract.



When you are choosing between moving companies, remember to leave the estimates from each company sitting out on your kitchen counter or dining room table when movers come by your home to assess your things. That way the moving companies know they have competition, and they'll be more likely to negotiate a deal with you.

Stick to Your Delivery Date

Once your shipment is picked up, you may incur storage costs if you change the delivery date. So try to make sure you're able to move into your new home on the scheduled date. Otherwise, you may wind up having to put your things into storage for one night, which will cost you money that you could have saved had you been more organized.

There are other hidden costs to consider as well: Moving a difficult item like a piano may cost extra. You also may need to purchase extra insurance coverage for your high-priced art or hire special handlers for those items.

Check Your Inventory to Make Sure Nothing Was Lost or Damaged

Movers are responsible for loss or damage to goods caused by the carrier. If anything is missing or if cartons are damaged, this should be noted when you check the inventory sheet at delivery.

Moving is hectic, and you may think you don't have time to look through all the boxes when they arrive at your place. But you should go through your inventory sheet and make certain your things look like they are in good condition and that they are all there. At the least, you should verify that everything on the list has been delivered.

Make Sure the Company is Legit

Moving scams are pretty rampant, and you want to be sure the company you work with is legit. So, check up on it. Pay a visit to the company to see whether it seems like it's on the up and up. Are the trucks labeled clearly? It's not good if they're not. You can search for the company's motor carrier license information on the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration SaferSys Web site.



Plug in the DOT number the company gave you to see if everything looks correct. For example, the address you got from the company should match the address on the SaferSys Web site. If you're moving to a different state, the moving company should be authorized for interstate moving.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, "New Home, New Beginnings: Settling into Your New Space" endeavors to be a trusted companion for individuals embarking on the journey of moving into a new home. By offering practical guidance and creative ideas, this comprehensive guide aims to empower homeowners in transforming their houses into inviting and personalized spaces that reflect their unique lifestyles and tastes.

From the initial planning stages through the process of unpacking and organizing, this PDF has explored essential aspects of making the move as seamless and stress-free as possible. We have discussed the significance of personalizing the living environment and the joy of discovering and integrating into a new neighborhood, creating a sense of belonging and community.

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