

New Home Checklist:

Settling Into A Newly Constructed House



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Abstract

Settling into a newly constructed home is an exciting milestone, but it requires careful planning to ensure a smooth transition. Start by conducting a thorough walkthrough to check that all construction details are complete and up to your satisfaction. Set up essential services like electricity, water, and internet, and make sure all appliances are functioning properly. It's also crucial to establish a maintenance schedule for new systems like HVAC or plumbing to keep them running efficiently. As you unpack, prioritize setting up key living spaces, and take your time to personalize your new home with decor that reflects your style. Finally, familiarize yourself with the neighborhood, introduce yourself to neighbors, and explore local amenities to feel truly settled in.



1. Introduction

Moving into a newly constructed house is an exciting milestone, but it comes with a unique set of tasks to ensure a smooth transition. Start by conducting a thorough inspection to identify any final touch-ups or minor fixes that may have been overlooked. It's important to set up essential utilities like electricity, water, gas, and internet. Secure your home by installing locks, a security system, and smoke detectors. Unpack and organize room by room, starting with the essentials like the kitchen and bedrooms. Don't forget to establish a maintenance routine to keep your new home in pristine condition. Finally, take time to familiarize yourself with the neighborhood and introduce yourself to your new neighbors.

2. First Things You Should Do When You Move Into a New Home



Moving is stressful, and as soon as you unload all your boxes and things into your new place, you probably want to just sit back and relax. But there's a checklist of things to do before you can get fully settled in to your new home—and it goes beyond unpacking your stuff. Moving is a delicate balancing act of remembering to disconnect, turn on, and transfer various services, while also trying to make the move as efficient as possible, and it can be quite hectic.

So, we rounded up a team of home and real estate experts to explain the first things you should do when you move into a new home. The tasks can differ depending on whether you're moving into a home you bought versus one you're renting, but the faster you check them off your list, the faster you can focus on enjoying your new space.

Change the locks

Before you move yourself, your family, or any of your belongings into your new home, you should first change the locks. “Most people think of the obvious reason, which is because the previous owners have a key—and that’s true,” says Candice Williams, a realtor at Coldwell Banker Realty in Houston. However, she says there may also be friends or family who have a key. “Some of these other people may not even know the owners have moved and may stop by,” she explains, and this can create a very uncomfortable and possibly dangerous situation.

If you're renting, make sure to ask your landlord or rental company before changing the locks.

Forward mail and notify contacts

One way to avoid mix-ups with family and friends is to ensure that they have your new address. “Update your address information with key contacts such as your employer, school, and insurance company,” says Williams. “Also, avoid any missed mail by setting up mail forwarding with the post office—and as mail gets forwarded from your previous address, use this as a point of reference as to who still needs your new address updated for their records,” Williams recommends. And don’t forget banks, as well as credit card companies and other creditors that may typically send digital bills and notifications. (While you may never get a physical bill from your credit card company or bank, don’t forget that they’ll send your new credit or debit card via snail mail—and it may be after the mail forwarding period is over.)

Check on your HOA items



If you're in an HOA (homeowner’s association), you should already have a point of contact to ensure that you get everything you need when you need it. However, mistakes do happen, so Lisa Harris of RE/MAX Center in Braselton, Georgia, recommends double-checking with them, since it’s better to be safe than sorry. “Ensure that you have gate access codes, pool access, security codes, and also download any applicable apps,” she says. In addition, she says you need to be clear on how to make your monthly or annual HOA payments.

Are HOA Fees Worth It? This Guide Will Help You Decide

Find your home's main shut-off valve

In a new home, it may take a while to figure everything out. However, Thomas Dougherty, VP of operations of Benjamin Franklin Plumbing, recommends finding your home's main shut-off valve as soon as you move in. If your household plumbing suddenly springs a major leak, he says you'll need to shut off the water immediately so it won't flood your home.

"Every home connected to a municipal water supply has a main shut-off valve that can stop the flow of water to all pipes, fixtures, and appliances, and in most cases, this valve is located next to the water meter." (It's also a good idea to address any insulation problems before winter to avoid frozen pipes that can burst.)

But you'll need to do more than just know where the main shut-off valve is located. Dougherty recommends knowing, in advance, how to turn it off. "If your valve doesn't look like it can be turned by hand, it may require a pipe wrench or a long-handled plumbing wrench called a water key—which can be picked up at any hardware store," he says. However, you don't want to be running around during an emergency trying to find a wrench or figuring out how to use it, so it's best to know what you're dealing with in advance.

Set up waste and recycling

When you start unpacking all of those cardboard boxes, you'll realize how important your waste and recycling services are. Jeremy Walters, sustainability ambassador at Republic Services, which provides residential and commercial recycling and waste services, actually recommends calling your local service provider at least one or two weeks before your move-in date. "This will allow ample time for them to deliver your carts and save you the headache from stockpiling your waste or transporting it to a local facility for disposal," he says.

When you're unpacking in your new home, he recommends designating a space to consolidate those empty boxes and other packing items. "Doing so will help to minimize clutter and expedite the process of throwing them away or recycling them," Walters explains.

Walters also provides some tips for what can be recycled, reused, or discarded. "Cardboard boxes and packing paper are great for recycling, and if you find that you have more than you can fit in your curbside cart, see if your local provider has a drop-off location, save them for next week's collection, or ask around to see if anyone you know may be moving and needs boxes," he says. Always cut the boxes down and flatten them to save space.

"Packing peanuts, bubble wrap and stretch wrap should never be placed in the recycling bin, so either discard these items or offer them to someone else with an upcoming move," he says, adding that you can, however, recycle plastic water bottles, jugs, and tubs.

If you have clothing, dishware, or furniture that you no longer want, he recommends donating them to a secondhand store instead of putting them in the trash.

“Electronics with rechargeable batteries, such as cell phones and laptops, should never be placed in your trash or recycling bin,” he says. These items can pose health and safety hazards to sanitation workers and the community—including fires. “Always make sure to drop electronics off at a designated electronics return center,” he says.

Meet your neighbors



According to Williams, you should jump right in and meet your new neighbors. If there’s an HOA, she recommends attending the meetings. If you don’t have an HOA, waving to neighbors as you drive or walk by is an easy way to show that you’re friendly and approachable. “If you’re comfortable with it, knock on a neighbor’s door to say hello and introduce yourself,” Williams says.

Making these connections is important, Williams explains, because neighbors who have lived in the area a long time often have a lot of insider information regarding the community. They can also help to make your transition a lot smoother.

Harris agrees, adding that you should join local networking groups and organizations as another way to meet new people in your area. And don’t forget the role of social media. “Joining local Facebook groups can ensure you know about future events and neighborhood happenings,” she says.

3. Set Up Utilities



Setting up utilities may not be the most exciting part of a new home, but it should be one of the first things on your moving checklist. The sooner you contact utility companies and service providers, the less likely you are to experience delays. In this comprehensive guide, we'll walk you through how to set up utilities when moving to a new home.

Electric and Gas

When setting up electric and gas services, remember that markets can be regulated or deregulated.

Regulated markets often feature a single utility provider, while consumers in deregulated markets can choose from multiple providers. Check with your local utility commission or browse online resources to determine your market type.

For local moves, you may be able to simply transfer service with your current electricity provider. Otherwise, you will need to cancel and find a new provider. If you're moving to a state with a deregulated, or competitive, energy market, compare rates and contract terms before selecting a provider.

You should start this process at least two weeks before your move, as it may take some time to research the options and finalize contracts.

Many providers require a deposit of \$100 or more to start service, especially for first-time customers. This deposit may be waived based on your credit score or history with the company.

Water

If your new home has its own well or water storage tank, you won't need to worry about a water bill. If it doesn't, the city or county will likely provide the water. You can check with your landlord or real estate agent or perform a quick Google search to see what is available to you.

When you move, you may need to set up an account with a new water supplier. Let your current provider know your move-out day at least one week in advance so it can shut off service accordingly. Then, contact your new provider to arrange for water service to be turned on or transferred to your name on your move-in day. If you'll have the same water supplier, just tell them your new address.

Water usage is typically calculated based on meter readings, and rates can vary. The water supplier may also bundle your water bill with a sewer bill, depending on whether your home has a septic tank.

Internet and TV



Research the internet and satellite or cable TV providers in your new area and compare packages. Many companies offer discounts for new customers, but promotional rates typically expire after six months or a year. Schedule setup at least a week in advance to ensure connectivity on move-in day.

Are Utilities Included in Rent?

Some utilities, such as water and trash collection, may be included in your monthly rent. Lease agreements vary, so it's essential to carefully review the terms of yours. Look for a section that outlines utilities, costs, and responsibilities.

If you don't know which utilities are or aren't included in your monthly rent, or if you have to pay them separately, check with your landlord. Either way, you will likely pay a fixed amount each month, regardless of your actual usage.

How Much Does It Cost To Set Up New Utility Services?

The cost of setting up new utility services varies depending on the type of utility, your credit history, and your location. Usually, utility providers require customers to pay a deposit when initiating new services. Deposit charges can range from a nominal fee to more than \$100. They are typically determined by your credit score and anticipated annual usage.

Electricity and gas providers often require deposits, and these can either be refundable or non-refundable. A refundable deposit means you get the money back after a specific number of on-time payments or when you terminate the service. Water services may require a deposit, while internet and TV service providers are more likely to charge a setup fee.

Additionally, you may be charged a transfer fee if you decide to stay with your utility company. This fee generally covers the administrative costs associated with updating your information and ensures a seamless transition of service to your new address. The exact amount varies by provider, but transfer fees are typically much lower than the deposit required of a new customer. Some companies will even waive the fee as a courtesy.

How To Transfer Utilities to a New Homeowner or Tenant



If you're transferring utilities, inform your utility providers of your impending move as quickly as possible. Let them know your move-out date and inquire about the procedures for closing your account and transferring service to a new owner. If you're a tenant, your landlord will often handle this process, but check to make sure.

Considerations for New Home Builds

Setting up utilities for a newly built home comes with unique challenges and considerations. The infrastructure for utilities may not yet exist, which requires coordination between the homeowner, builder, and utility providers. Delays can occur if unforeseen issues arise or if permits and approvals are not secured promptly. You may be charged for connecting utilities to your home or moving utility lines underground in addition to the cost of running new lines to your property. You may also need to pay for permits or setup fees.

4. How to Clean a New Home



With so many things to remember and tasks to complete before moving out, cleaning is usually pretty far down the list of priorities for most. Even if it has been done, there's no guarantee it'll be up to standard. Rather than leave it to chance, we'd recommend familiarizing yourself with how to clean a new home before moving in, so you can ensure a fresh new start – quite literally.

Whether you're buying or renting, the more organized you are when moving house, the less stressful it will be, and cleaning comes high up on the list of must-dos. Along with decluttering to move and packing up your things well in advance, undertaking a thorough deep clean before you start bringing things into it should be high up the checklist for moving into a new house.

'An empty house makes for a much easier clean and allows you to work to a standard you're happy and comfortable with. Another benefit is the opportunity to inspect the property more closely and identify any issues that might need to be addressed such as pest infections, leaks or other maintenance issues in advance of you moving in', says cleaning expert Angela Lee of Ontario-based cleaning service Hellamaid.

How to clean a new home before moving in

While preferable, cleaning a new home before moving in isn't always an option. If that's the case, waiting until move day is fine; try and keep all your boxes, furniture and belongings contained to one area (ideally not the kitchen or bathroom) to make the job as easy as possible. Alternatively, consider putting your things into storage for a couple of days to buy yourself some time.

Once you're set up, it's time to start your deep clean. Hopefully you've got a well-planned cleaning schedule to hand; this will be slightly different for everyone, depending on what type of house they're moving into, however, the basics remain the same. Using our own experience and advice from the experts, we've put together a step-by-step guide to get you started.

1. Pack a box of cleaning essentials



When you're packing up belongings, be mindful of keeping cleaning essentials to one side, so you're prepped and ready from the moment you get your keys. As a minimum, we'd recommend the following tools and equipment:

- Vacuum cleaner
- Mop and bucket, like this one at Walmart
- Broom and dustpan, at Target
- Squeegee, at Amazon
- Rubber gloves, at Walmart
- All-purpose cleaner, at Target
- Step ladder, at Amazon
- Bicarb of soda, at Walmart
- White vinegar, at Walmart
- Sponges, at Walmart

- Microfiber cloths, at Amazon
- Grout brush, at Amazon (or toothbrush)
- Paper towels, at Walmart

Pete Brichka, CEO and owner of Pete's Moving Services in California, also recommends including scissors and an electric drill: 'as any wise mover will know, having these tools available ahead of time will make the transition much smoother and easier. Scissors are handy for cutting tape and opening boxes, while a good-quality, cordless drill is ideal for when you need to hang something, or assemble furniture', he says.

2. Prioritize the refrigerator...

Having a clean space to store food you've brought over from your previous home is really important. Time is of the essence when it comes to chilled or frozen items, so familiarize yourself with how to clean a refrigerator, and make it job number one. 'It's much easier to clean whilst empty and then you can store perishables safely while you're working on unpacking the rest of your belongings', says Jennifer Rodriguez, chief hygiene officer at Pro Housekeepers.

3. ...and the toilet

Cleaning the bathroom, or at the very least the toilet and sink should be next on your list. There's every chance the previous home-owners used it before leaving, and it won't be long before you'll need to use it yourself, so a thorough clean is essential.

'We'd also advise changing the toilet seats. They're relatively cheap and you'll be much more at ease knowing that it's brand new', says Chi Ip, owner of Boston-based cleaning service Tidy Here.

4. Clean from top to bottom – literally



Before you get into the nitty gritty of cleaning any room, it's important to familiarize yourself with some general cleaning tips, to ensure you're getting the job done as quickly and efficiently as possible. Starting at the top and working down is one of the best that we – and the experts – can offer.

'By taking care of higher areas such as ceilings, walls and trim first, then gradually working your way towards the flooring, you can prevent dirt and debris from landing on freshly-cleaned surfaces. Cleaning the floors last allows you plenty of time to make sure everywhere has been thoroughly vacuumed and mopped before you start moving furniture in – it'll be harder to clean then', says Pete Brichka.

5. Tackle the kitchen

So the fridge is clean, now you can move onto the rest of the room. As a high-traffic area, kitchens tend to accumulate a lot of grime, which can be pretty overwhelming, particularly if it's not your grime you're having to deal with! With that in mind, one of the best ways to clean a kitchen is to break it down into sections.

Start high; dust off light fittings, rid corners of cobwebs and wipe down the tops of wall-mounted cabinets and the fridge. Next, move onto appliances. Familiarize yourself with how to clean an oven (and how to clean a stove burner, if you have one), a microwave and a dishwasher – don't forget to clean the filter. Where possible, safely pull appliances out from the wall and clean under and behind them. When cleaning kitchen cabinets, be sure to tackle inside as well as out; wipe down the walls and shelves from top to bottom, as well as the doors and knobs. Repeat the process for drawers, too. Clean the kitchen sink and wipe down kitchen countertops before finally giving the floor a thorough vacuum and mop.

Effectively getting rid of all food debris, grease, water marks and splatters is the ultimate goal, but it's worth noting that you don't have to use chemical cleaners to achieve this – natural solutions, such as cleaning with vinegar, baking soda and lemon, can be just as effective.

6. Blitz the bathrooms



It may look clean enough, but when it comes to cleaning a bathroom in your new home, it's about ridding it of invisible germs and bacteria, just as much as achieving spotless surfaces – hygiene is paramount.

You'll want to get rid of dust before you introduce water or cleaning products, so wipe down fixtures and fittings with a microfibre cloth first. When it comes to effective disinfecting, the longer you allow the cleaning product to work the better.

'Let your cleaning products sit for a few minutes before wiping them away, and get on with other tasks in the meantime. This will give them time to break down dirt and grime, making it easier to clean', says Angela Lee.

How to clean a bathroom sink and a bathtub will depend on the material they're made from, so check first to see if there's specific products you should be using. Like in the kitchen, start high, cleaning ventilation fans as well as light fixtures and the tops of cabinets. Spritz down tiled walls and wipe down the sanitaryware, paying extra attention to faucets.

When wiping down the shower, focus on how to clean a showerhead and don't forget the shower screen glass; a 50:50 solution of vinegar and water works well, and is handy for cleaning a mirror without streaks, too. Finish with a sweep and mop.

4.1. The Right Way To Clean Painted Walls



Beautiful and shiny painted walls in a home take a lot of wear and tear on a daily basis. They can become dull and dirty with dust build-up, food splatters, grease, smoke, spider webs, smudges, insect droppings and much more.

The worst part is that most people are unaware of how to clean their painted walls and thus ruin its finish by using harsh chemicals or abrasive tools.

If you are concerned about your rental property's aesthetic value and hygiene, make sure you use proper cleaning supplies to clean your walls like a pro. You can also hire seasoned professionals for an expert vacate cleaning Perth and get your bond back without hassle.

If you are doing it yourself, consider the following tips to maintain clean, shiny painted walls for years. This guide also includes different types of paints and the right way to tackle grime without causing any damage.

What are the Types of Wall Paint?

There are commonly two types of paints available for interior walls, including:

Oil-Based Paint: It is used in rooms with excess moisture as it is more durable than water-based paint.

Latex or Water-Based: It is resistant to crack and chipping but needs special attention to tackle stains. It can give an old house a clean look when you choose right colour combination.

What are the Different Types of Paint Finishes?

It is important to know the type of finish before tackling stains and grim from your painted walls. Below are some common types:

Matte Finish: It is a no-shine finish prone to harsh cleaners and abrasive tools.

Eggshell or Satin: It simply reflects light on the wall surface and requires less cleaning effort.

Semi-gloss: Reflects light with a shine and is excellent for bathrooms, kitchens and trim.

High-Gloss: This is the most durable paint finish, ideal for cabinets, furniture, etc. It can be cleaned with a degreaser or mild detergent.

A Complete Guide to Cleaning Painted Walls Like a Pro

Professionally trained cleaners follow the same guide when performing professional vacate cleaning Perth to help tenants impress their fussy landlord and claim their bond back without any dispute.

Gather Cleaning Supplies

Make sure you have the following cleaning tools and products for shiny walls:

- Sponges
- Microfiber cloths
- Vacuum machines
- Melamine Sponge or magic eraser
- Ladder or step stool
- Dishwashing liquid
- White vinegar and warm water solution

- Baking soda
- Rubbing alcohol
- Borax powder

Tips to Deep Clean Latex or Water-Based Wall Paint



Below is a step-by-step guide to cleaning your latex-painted wall:

Tackle Loose Dirt and Dust

Use a HEPA-filtered vacuum with an extendable handle to remove dirt, loose particles and cobwebs from your walls. You can also use a step stool to reach the nooks and crannies.

Wash Walls with Mild Detergent

Prepare a homemade cleaning agent by mixing one dishwashing liquid and two parts warm water.

Dip a cloth or sponge in the solution and wring out excess water

Begin from the top and work in a small section.

Gently rub the area in a circular motion to clean walls and ceilings of your rental property.

Tip: Check the property condition report and do necessary repairs before the final move out.

Remove Heavily-Soiled Dirt

If you want to clean areas around light switches and furniture, turn off the electricity. Dip a cloth in baking soda and water paste and gently rub the surface. Baking soda is mildly abrasive and can remove heavy soil and grime with ease.

Rinse and Dry

Dip a clean sponge in the water and wring out excess water. Rinse away soap residue and let the wall dry completely.

Tips to Clean Oil-Based Painted Walls



These are delicate and need special care to remove accumulated dust, soil and stains with precision.

Get Rid of Dust

Use the same dust removal strategy to remove cobwebs and inspect marks and dirt from your oil-based wall paint.

Use White Vinegar to Tackle Stains

It is good to use green cleaning solutions to eliminate stubborn stains and grime from your home walls and other surfaces. Mix one teaspoon of dishwashing liquid and half a teaspoon of white vinegar in warm water. White vinegar is an acetic acid yet non-toxic cleaning agent that can cut through grease, grime and stubborn stains with ease. Dip a cloth and wring out well to avoid excess moisture. Make sure you clean the affected area in a circular motion. Tip: Always test the product in a hidden area to see the results.

Use a Magic Eraser For Caked-on Grime

If your painted walls are filthy and laden with grime and grease, use borax powder as a cleaning agent and a melamine sponge. Sprinkle a generous amount of borax on the affected area and wet your magic eraser. Gently scrub the area in a circular motion. The best part is that you can use this tool on semi-gloss and high-gloss oil paint finishes.

Rinse and Dry the Wall

Make sure you rinse the wall using a damp cloth and get rid of residue and cleaning solution.

How to Remove Stubborn Stains From Painted walls?

Here is a quick guide to tackling the following types of stains without damaging the paint finish:

Permanent Marker: Dip a cotton ball in rubbing alcohol and test the hidden area of your wall because it could also damage the finish. Dab at the stain and rinse the area with a wet sponge.

Crayon Marks: You can use baby wipes or rub it with a non-gel toothpaste or baking soda with a damp sponge.

Mould and Mildew: These unusual spores on ceiling walls and other areas can cause various health hazards. If you want to remove mould from painted walls, use warm, soapy water, baking soda and borax to achieve the best results. Apply the product and leave it until you rub it with a non-bristled brush. Rinse and dry the area completely.

If you are preparing a rental property at the end of your lease, book experts for a quality vacate cleaning Perth and get your bond money back with ease. They will clean everything, including your painted walls, with perfection.

5. Unpack Efficiently After Moving

When it comes to moving to a new home, everyone's different. For some people, packing up is sheer labor but unpacking at the new home fills them with feelings of energy and opportunity. Many other people love the anticipation that comes with packing up the household, but they hate the drudgery of unpacking once the moving vans have dumped furniture and boxes at the new house. Whichever camp you're in, following a basic process makes the home stretch of your move as smooth as possible.

Unpack With a System



Before jumping in and randomly opening boxes, know what it is you are unpacking. Make sure you have a copy of the inventory list—either the one that the moving company provided or an inventory you created to track your belongings before you moved. Ideally, packing up involved boxing up items according to usage or by room, so make sure to examine box labels or open them up and peer inside before you start emptying them out.

Start With the Necessities

Next, unpack the essentials box (or boxes). This should be one of the first boxes off the truck or the boxes that came with you in the car. These are the essential items you need to keep your home running in the short term. If you didn't designate a box or two for the essentials, quickly search for boxes that contain whatever you need to get by for at least a couple of nights. These essentials will normally include basic toiletries, medications, books, necessary paperwork, phone and computer chargers, and some basic food preparation items.

Get the Kitchen Done First

Now, unpack the kitchen items and put them away. If you've properly labeled the boxes, you should be able to locate what you need fairly easily. If you have time, it's a good idea to line the kitchen cupboards and cabinets first. If you don't have time to completely finish the kitchen, unpack only what you need, including pots and pans. Get the major appliances hooked up, and plug in any small appliances that will make your life a little easier—such as the coffee pot and toaster. You can return to concentrate on completely organizing the kitchen after the rest of the house is unpacked.

Do the Bedrooms Next

After the kitchen, put the beds together and unpack the linens for each bedroom. Ideally, you may have set aside a single set of linens for each bed when you packed; if so, getting your beds ready for the first night should be fairly easy. Decide on furniture placement and closet organization before you unpack boxed items, if at all possible. Installing shelving and closet organizing units first will make unpacking more productive and save you future work.

Move on to the Bathrooms

Bathroom fixtures are pretty functional already when you move in, provided the water is turned on, but you will quickly need to unpack towels, toiletries, and other bathroom items. Nothing makes a house feel like a home more than having a comfortable, fully stocked bathroom. Again, start by unpacking the most important items—medications, body care products, the shower curtain, and towels. But complete bathroom unpacking should be among the first things you do.

Assemble and Arrange the Furniture

If you were fortunate enough to have floorplan sketches of your new home before you moved, then arranging furniture should be fairly straightforward. If you need to rearrange the furniture in the bedrooms, living room, and dining room, make a systematic plan so you only have to do it once. Large pieces that need mechanical assembly, such as bookcases or entertainment centers, should be put together only after you know where all the furniture will be placed. It is a waste of time to assemble large items that may need to be disassembled and moved.

Deal With Utility Areas Last

One of the last spaces to unpack is the garage, basement, and other utility rooms. Since most garage items aren't essential, try to organize the space before you start to unpack. Make sure to unpack any tools and materials you'll need to keep your home functional. This can include utility shelving units and storage containers.

Items for the patio, deck, or landscape can be unpacked last and set up at your leisure. However, if you are moving in summer, it can be a good idea to set up the barbecue grill fairly early, so that you can cook while the kitchen is still being set up.

Tips for Efficient Unpacking

Get the essentials unpacked first, then take your time with the rest of the house.

Plan each room before you unpack too many boxes.

Anticipate future needs. Rather than putting off work—such as lining cabinet shelves or installing closet organizers—do it now, when it is most efficient.

Make the space your own. Hang pictures and place family photos around the house early in your unpacking. It will help to make the home feel familiar and comfortable and will boost your family's enthusiasm.

Let each member of the family unpack their own bedroom, as applicable. This allows kids to participate in the event.

Try to take some time to enjoy your new space once you have the main essential unpacking completed. Perhaps schedule some fun family events. In the next weeks, set a few hours aside each day or on the weekends to ensure you'll gradually get the job completed.

6. Make a New House Feel Like Home



No matter how excited you are to move into your new place, your first few weeks will probably feel foreign and, well, a little weird. Celebrating a birthday, planting a garden, or decorating for the holidays will help that "new-house feeling" fade, but waiting for a milestone requires a little too much patience. Here's how you can feel settled and happy — even while you're living among boxes.

1. Start with the closet.

"I believe in living well from the moment you move in," says interior designer Nate Berkus. "Most people start unpacking the common spaces first, but I focus my efforts on my closet because Monday's are hard enough without having to search for your favorite sweater."

2. Prioritize the kids' rooms.

"My son is a collector of previously owned things and especially loves his large assortment of snow globes," says Nicole Curtis, host of Rehab Addict on HGTV. "I always hand-carry the box of globes with us and then ask the movers to focus on his room first. He will spend the afternoon unpacking his collections and even though the rest of house is in shambles, he'll be happy and that's all that matters."

3. Recreate familiar sounds and sights.

"I've had a cuckoo clock for years that sings every 30 minutes," says Maxwell Ryan, founder of Apartment Therapy. "To me the sound of the clock is home, and having it running right away always does the trick."

4. Wait to hang art.

"I've spent many years gathering artwork when I travel and each piece is treasured because it reminds me of a specific place and time," says Holly Becker, author and founder of the blog Decor8. "I unpack each piece right away and lean them against walls, sideboards, and nightstands so I can still enjoy them until I've decided where to install everything."

5. Mimic your regular routine.

"My husband Bob seems to always lose his wallet and keys in the same spaces," says designer and author Cortney Novogratz, who recently moved from New York City to Los Angeles with her husband and seven children. "As soon as we moved in, I created a space where everyone could drop their keys, bags, and coats. I even used the same hooks and bins that we used in Manhattan because they work for us. Your routine shouldn't have to change just because your location does."

6. Bring out all your favorites.

"For instant coziness, I light candles and play music I love," says Becker, who always packs iPod speakers, candles, and a lighter in an easy-to-find 'favorites' box. "I listen to Lorde, Oh Land, John Mayer and Zaz, and some of my favorite scents are Jo Malone's Grapefruit candle and Feu de Bois by Diptyque, which smells like a burning fire."

7. Get comfy.

For blogger Joy Cho, everyday comforts help her feel settled: "The first thing I do when I move in is pull out all my clean bedding," she says. "Pillows, duvets, sheets, and throws — the works. There is nothing more comforting than sleeping in your old, cozy bed."

8. Make it smell nice.



"I need my house to have good new smells to make it feel like home," says Ryan. "Like a cast iron pan that needs seasoning, I break in the space with an expensive steak on the stovetop and favorite bottle of wine. I love the way the heat and the smells 'season' my home."

9. Don't order pizza.

To Leah Bergman, author of the food blog Freutcake, home is a homemade meal: "I always unpack the kitchen first so I can cook a meal for my husband and I to enjoy," she says. "Even if we're living among boxes, eating a simple recipe on the floor; it's worth it."

Conclusion

Settling into a newly constructed house is both an exciting and demanding experience, requiring thoughtful attention to a variety of tasks. By starting with a thorough inspection to catch any minor issues, you can ensure your home is in top shape. Setting up essential utilities and securing the property with reliable locks, a security system, and smoke detectors should be high on your priority list. As you unpack and organize, focus on the most crucial areas first, like the kitchen and bedrooms, to create a functional living environment from the get-go. Establishing a regular maintenance routine will help keep your home in excellent condition and prevent potential problems down the line. Beyond the physical setup, take time to explore your new neighborhood and build connections with your neighbors, which can greatly enhance your sense of belonging. By tackling these tasks methodically and embracing the process, you'll gradually transform your new house into a home filled with comfort, security, and community, ready to serve as the backdrop for many cherished memories.

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