



THE ULTIMATE 8-WEEK MOVING COUNTDOWN CHECKLIST

YOUR WEEK-BY-WEEK, STEP-BY-STEP ACTION PLAN FOR A STRESS-FREE MOVE

There's a reason they say moving is the third most stressful event in life. Not only does it throw your typical routine out the window and add to an already growing to-do list, but living out of boxes for days (or let's be honest, weeks), and not knowing where things are can weigh heavily on your sanity and your body.

But we believe no matter your age or what stage of life you're in, moving doesn't have to be stressful. That's why we've created this ultimate moving to-do list and countdown, so you can manage your move like the pros.

We've helped thousands of individuals and families plan their moves. In this ultimate guide, we're sharing our top tips for a stress-free move, with a week-by-week checklist of all the big and little things you need to do in the 6-8 weeks leading up to Moving Day.



GET A COMPLIMENTARY QUOTE TODAY

Call us at 1.844.WAYFORTH or email us at info@wayforth.com
Read about our past client experiences at www.wayforth.com

This is the time to start organizing, making checklists, and booking movers. Whether you're moving across the street or the country, this is no small task. But here's where you start.

TO-DO LIST:

- Make a list of everyone who needs to know your new address.
 - Friends and family
 - Employers
 - Schools (also arrange for records transfers)
 - Churches
 - Banks
 - Doctors / Veterinarians
 - Mortgage, credit card, utility, cell phone, insurance and other billing companies
- Take a full inventory of your belongings. Moving companies will give you an estimate based on how many pieces of furniture you have, how many drawers are in your kitchen, closet sizes, vehicles, and other household items. Many times they'll do an in-person inventory as well, but the more accurate you are, the closer to reality your estimate will be.
- If you're moving into or out of a multi-story building, book the freight elevators for at least four hours at each place and find out where you'll be able to park the truck.
- Create a budget that includes all moving-associated costs, from supplies and utility setup fees to gas money and runs to the home-improvement store.
- If necessary, request time off work.
- Set up a system for keeping all of your move-related receipts. If you're moving for work and your new employer doesn't cover the cost, you may be able to write off the entire experience. Check with your accountant or tax advisor.
- Arrange for your new house to be cleaned and painted prior to move-in.
- Order any new shades, curtains or furniture that you'll need.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- A spreadsheet or Google Doc to keep track of expenses
- Important dates
- Contact info for all vendors
- Estimates from all potential vendors

PRO TIP:

Be sure to read any contracts from your selected moving company before signing the paperwork. Some companies add hidden fees to the fine print, so this isn't the time to skim or you could be in for an unpleasant surprise.

WAYFORTH PRO TIP

UTILIZE YOUR BATHTUB!

Put items that you don't want the movers to pack into your bathtubs. Hand a "Do Not Move" sign on the shower curtain to ensure your items stay in place.

4 WEEKS OUT

It's time to start decluttering and downsizing. You may not think you need four weeks, but this is the point in moving when most people figure out just how much stuff they have -- and it's a lot more than they thought.

TO-DO LIST:

- Begin to evaluate your possessions. What can be sold or donated to a charitable organization? What haven't you used within the last year?
- Make three spaces in each room for "take," "sell/donate" and "trash piles." This is an excellent opportunity to go through your things and part ways with stuff you no longer need, especially if you're downsizing into a smaller space. In addition, you'll save money by not packing unnecessary items.
- Hold a walkthrough with family and neighbors to identify their chosen items.
- Put together a garage sale, post online, or take items to consignment that you think you might be able to sell. The more you get out of the way, the easier it will be to see what is left to work with.
- Put special focus on how you'll pack and move your fragile or heirloom items, such as pianos,

motorcycles, glassware, antique furniture, etc.

- Get a change of address form from your local post office and make arrangements to have your mail forwarded.
- Find out if you'll be responsible for cleaning your current house after move-out, and schedule a cleaning company.
- Update your voter registration.
- Make time to hang out with your neighbors or friends before you leave town. Throw a going-away party to see everyone at once, or have individual get-togethers -- or both! It's not only a great way to say good-bye, and also a nice way to take a break and relieve some of the stress.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- Boxes
- Packing tape
- Tape dispensers
- Box cutters
- Markers
- Bubble wrap
- Packing paper
- Blankets
- Scissors
- Labels

WAYFORTH PRO TIP

USE LABELS AND ORGANIZE ITEMS INTO GROUPS.

With all of the items you accumulate in between moves, it can be hard to keep track of everything. As inconvenient as packing can be, unpacking can be even worse if you don't prepare. Our recommendation? Use LABELS. Organize items in groups i.e. kitchen items in one box, dress clothes in their own box, you get the picture. Make sure you use packing tape to affix the labels to the box too so they don't fall off.

1 - 2 WEEKS OUT

It's crunch time. These last two weeks are when you should really be focusing on packing preparation, organizing, and throwing out. It's also time to start thinking about the details of moving day.

TO-DO LIST:

- ❑ Start to think about the things that you may want to transport yourself on moving day, such as valuable or sentimental jewelry, your checkbook, or any other items you don't want far from you. Also, most moving companies are not allowed to move firearms or ammunition.
- ❑ Pack overnight bags for your family members that include a few changes of clothes, toiletries, towels, personal electronics, snacks, and anything else you might need en route.
- ❑ Schedule your utilities to be disconnected or moved to your new address.
- ❑ Start making minor repairs to your current location, if you haven't already.
- ❑ Consider child-care arrangements with a family member or babysitter for move days so you can focus on moving.
- ❑ Book hotels if you'll be without a permanent home for a few nights on either end of the move.
- ❑ Book boarding for your furry family members if necessary for a few days. If you're moving long-distance, make sure you leave room for them in a vehicle.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- Duffel bags for your short-term and overnight essentials
- Cleaning supplies
- Garbage bags and cans

PRO TIPS:

- Don't pack in silence! Tune in to your favorite playlist and rock on while you pack up.
- Pack your overnight personal bags the same way you would if you were going on a weekend vacation, with a few added extras like toilet paper and snacks. If you have pets, pack for them as well.

WAYFORTH PRO TIP

USE SOFT THINGS TO HELP PACK FRAGILE ITEMS

Use soft things, like pillows, blankets, sheets, and towels to wrap around fragile items like lamps and large vases. That way, you're killing two birds with one stone: You're packing items that can take up space like pillows, and also protecting smaller, more fragile items. Remember, it's all about efficiency!

Time to make sure everything is ready for the movers! Finish any last-minute organizing, cleaning and donating so that the only things left in your house are things that are going with you.

TO-DO LIST:

- Remove and hand carry all valuables before the movers arrive.
- Donate or throw out unused belongings so they don't accidentally get packed
- Gather all house and storage keys, as well as garage door openers, in one location to be turned over to the new owners. Also, include any appliance manuals or warranty information.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- Water for you and the moving crew
- Handy snacks to help keep your energy up
- Your moving checklist
- A vehicle for running items to donation drop-offs of the landfill
- Straps, bungee cords, or ropes

PRO TIPS:

- Create a safe path for the movers by clearing out any rugs, cords, or other things they could trip over. If you're moving in wintertime, make sure your drive is clear from snow or ice.
- Before you take apart your electronics, take a picture of the setup so you can reassemble them easily. Put any hardware into a plastic bag and keep it with its equipment.

WAYFORTH PRO TIP

MAKE USE OF PACKING PAPER

Packing paper serves many uses in the move process. You can wrap it around almost anything, which ultimately offers more protection to your valuables. Things like silverware, glasses, bowls, picture frames, you name it! Plus, it's much cheaper than replacing broken items!

Let's do this! It's going to be a long day, but by the evening you'll be sound asleep in your new home. And if you've been diligent about packing, organizing, and logistics, today should be a breeze!

TO-DO LIST:

- Meet the movers when they arrive. Take them on a walk-through and point out everything they need to know.
- Once everything is loaded, take one last walk-through. Open every door, check behind every curtain, and don't forget any outside structures or crawl spaces. Check your mailbox, too.
- Turn off the lights and lock all doors and windows before you leave.
- Travel safely!

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- Garbage bags
- Snacks
- Plastic baggies for last-minute finds
- Toolbox
- Work gloves

UNPACKING PRO TIPS:

- Designate a space in each room for boxes to be stacked – choose a location that does not block traffic, and that you can work around in case the boxes remain there for a few days.
- Designate a space for empty boxes. As boxes are unpacked, flatten them and carry them out to that space. Determine what you will do with the empty boxes – recycle, throw, or have your movers take them.
- Unpack wardrobe boxes first, as they take up a large amount of space.
- Place toilet paper and a roll of paper towels in a convenient bathroom so that you and the movers have a bathroom to use!
- Consider what you will have for lunch that day – and whether you will bring in food for the movers (a nice touch so that they don't have to leave to get lunch, but not a necessity).
- Identify your bedding box as soon as possible, unpack and make your beds so that everyone can go to sleep at the end of an exhausting day!

WANT HELP?

WAYFORTH

WANT PROFESSIONAL HELP MAKING YOUR MOVE STRESS-FREE?

WayForth has a long history of helping individuals and families move and downsize. We specialize in helping you purge and declutter, pack, move, unpack and settle into your new home, be it a bigger or smaller home or a senior living community. We sit down with you to understand how your daily routines and lifestyle, so that when you step into your new home after moving day, everything is exactly where you'd put it.

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

1. GIVE US A CALL

One of our expertly trained move management specialists will speak with you personally to evaluate your specific needs.

2. LET'S MAKE A GAME PLAN

We'll take a personalized approach to meeting your goals and create a step-by-step plan to getting it done in the timeframe you need.

3. SIT BACK AND RELAX

Let us do the work, while you finish your book, spend a day with the family, or catch up on work.

4. ENJOY YOUR HOME

When you step in your new home, your essentials will be unpacked and in their place, your bed will be made and your coffeemaker will be set for the next morning ... it'll feel like you've lived there all along.



HAPPY MOVING!

P.S. If you're ready for one-on-one moving help, so you barely have to lift a finger, just call 1.844.WAYFORTH or email us at info@wayforth.com.