Southland Title

Moving Guide

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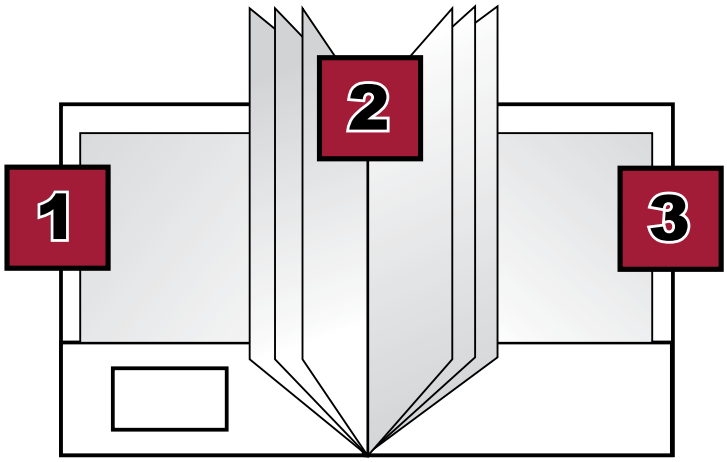
Moving can be time consuming, frustrating, expensive and disruptive, but it can also be an adventure, a time of discovery, a good excuse to clean up and organize, and a bonding experience for every member of the family. This Moving Guide includes information designed to help you create a positive experience, whether you are moving near or far.

LandAmerica companies have been working with home buyers and sellers for over 100 years, and we are very happy to work with you as you prepare to move. Congratulations on your closing and thank you for choosing Southland Title for all your real estate transaction needs.

Good luck with your move!



1

PACKING BOX LABELS

Contact your Southland Title Representative for a set of our complimentary Packing Labels.

2

MOVING TIPS BOOKLET

This section has general tips including selecting a moving company or truck, packing and unpacking, and moving announcement cards to notify your friends and family of your new home!

3

PROPERTY, POSSESSIONS & VALUABLES BOOKLET

Before you move, be sure to make a list of your possessions! This is great for insurance purposes, as well as for keeping track of your household items and valuables during the moving process.

All information contained herein deemed reliable but not guaranteed.

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Six Steps to a Successful Move

1. **As Far in Advance as Possible**

   Decide which goods will be moved and which will be sold or given away. Reduce as much as possible to save time and money on your move.

2. **Deciding Moving Costs**

   Remember that packing is a separate cost from moving. If you hire a moving company, they will submit two separate bids. If you think you might move yourself, think about the costs of packing materials.

3. **Talk with Trusted Friends & Relatives**

   Discuss their recent move, and what they would have done differently.

4. **Before Deciding to "Do it Yourself"**

   Keep in mind the time of year and what the weather might be Like. Other factors might include health, difficulty of move (stairs, steep drive-way, etc), and value of the items to be moved.

5. **Moving Companies**

   Moving companies will allow you to do your own packing or partial packing, but they will not be liable for damage to boxes packed by the customer. The driver may also refuse a box that is improperly packed. If the driver has to repack the box, additional charges will apply.

6. **Read Through This Booklet**

   Become a more knowledgeable mover!

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Finding a Moving Company

Moving companies usually offer a free estimate, so solicit quotes from several companies.

If you have decided to hire a moving company, you should allow six to eight weeks to find the right company for your valuable possessions. You are looking reliable, affordable company that will be "kind" to your possessions.

Ask Around

Start by asking friends, relatives or neighbors who handled their move. If you see someone moving into your neighborhood, stop to ask about their moving company. Your real estate agent may also be a good source for a moving company referral.

Questions to Ask

- Does the company subcontract its moving services?
- Which subcontractor would be used to move my home?
- Will the contents of my home be on one truck the entire time?
- What services aren't listed on this bid and what do you charge for them?
- What training do your movers and packers receive (especially for packing and moving fragile items)?
- Can you provide references from previous moving customers?

Moving Estimates

Moving companies usually offer a free estimate, so solicit quotes from several companies. Be sure to tell the mover about any special circumstances which may add to the difficulty of the move, such as parking problems, road access, street accessibility, delivery time restrictions, stairs and elevators. There are generally three types of moving estimates:

Binding Estimate: In a binding bid, the mover will offer a guaranteed price within a small percentage of deviation that is based on a complete list of items to be moved and the type of service performed.

Non-Binding or Hourly Rate: This is really just a price list. The rates are based upon the movers' previous experience of jobs similar to yours.

Not to Exceed: This quote states that the final price for the move cannot exceed the estimated figure. If the move comes in under the estimated amount, you pay the lesser price.

Bids are created by using a method that is unique to the moving industry. Each move is assigned a certain number of "cubes". A cube equals seven pounds. Estimators will multiply the final number of cubes by seven to determine the price. Estimates should include all moving charges, such as carrying up stairs or elevators, additional transportation, moving bulky articles, carrying an excessive distance, overtime, and more. Packing bids should state the labor charge as well as the cost of boxes and other moving materials.

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Renting a Moving Truck

Comfort and efficiency during your move will depend upon getting the right truck for your needs. Talk with the local arm of national truck rental companies and, as local vendors vary in quality and services, ask the following questions to aid in your decision.

- How many trucks/trailers do you have?
- How old are your vehicles?
- Does the truck have an automatic or manual transmission?
- Is the cab air-conditioned?
- How many adults can ride comfortably?
- What size truck is recommended for my household?
- How many miles to the gallon will the truck get when it is fully loaded?
- What happens if the truck breaks down? Is road service covered?
- Does the truck have a hydraulic lift or ramp?
- Does the truck include a spare tire and emergency flares?
- Where and when can I pick up the vehicle? Who is authorized to drive it?
- Are there mileage charges or drop-off fees on the vehicle?
- Where can I return the vehicle when I get to my destination?
- What costs are there in addition to the basic rental fee?
- Is the right truck available for me in my time frame?

Tips for Loading & Unloading Your Truck

- Always load the heaviest items first. This will help keep the truck stable on the road. Pack items you'll use most near the loading door where you can get to them easily. Using the right-size truck for your household will minimize shifting.
- Place bureaus, large china cabinets, sofas, refrigerators and other heavy appliances against the front wall of the truck. Use protective covers on sofas and mattresses. Then load chairs, tables, bookcases and light items toward the back.
- Stand large, flat items like mirrors, mattresses, box springs and table tops upright against the truck walls and tie them securely.
- Load the truck a quarter at a time, packing it tightly from the floor to ceiling. Secure each quarter with rope tied to the tie-down rings.
- Wrap mirrors and pictures with protective pads or use a special mirror carton. Order the right packing materials in advance when you reserve the truck.
- Stack lighter boxes on top of bigger, heavier ones.
- Carry valuable papers and items so they are not lost or damaged.

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Preparing Appliances for the Move

Major Appliances

- Clean your appliances early for a more pleasant and odor-free move.
- Defrost your refrigerator and freezer, propping doors open. Afterward, place an open box of baking soda inside of each to keep it fresh-smelling.
- Clean your oven and range. Use a powerful scrubbing agent and brush.
- Drain your washing machine.
- Place a nylon stocking filled with baking soda inside your washer to prevent mildew.
- Tape the hoses and cords to the back of the machine.
- Clean your dishwasher and remove any leftover soap.
- Cut a lemon into pieces and grind it into the garbage disposal to eliminate odors.
- Remember to dry interiors of all appliances to prevent mildew.

Small Appliances

- Empty the crumb-catcher of the toaster before you pack it.
- Tape the lid to the blender before packing.
- Empty the coffeemaker and dry it inside and out before packing.
- Take the time to wind cords and secure with a rubber band or twist-tie.
- Tape smaller parts onto the larger appliance to keep them together.
- Pack the "necessary" appliances together if possible so that you can unpack and use them right away.

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Packing Tips

What You Need to Get Packing

Packing supplies are available online from the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) at www.usps.com, or you can find them at self-storage facilities, truck rental offices, retail mailings shops and even hardware stores. Boxes designated for packing are heavier and stronger than those cast-off boxes from the supermarket.

If you can afford the purchase, buy special moving boxes especially sized for your cherished possessions, such as china, lamps, wardrobe, etc.

For Packing You Will Need:

- Strong packing boxes
- Bubble wrap for packing fragile items
- Tissue & ink-free packing paper
- Scissors
- Knife for opening boxes
- Several broad-tip markers to label boxes
- Rolls of packing tape

Packing Your Possessions

- Make an estimate of how many boxes you will need, then get at least 25% more.
- Use smaller boxes for books. Get bigger boxes for lighter items.
- Pack room-by-room, keeping similar items together. Labels boxes carefully with the name of the destination room. Number boxes when they are packed and sealed
- Reinforce the bottom of boxes with at least one strip of packing tape.
- Pack boxes firmly to prevent the contents from shifting during your move.
- Use crumpled paper for padding. Seal boxes tightly with wide packing tape.
- Pack records and CDs vertically in boxes. Don't stack them flat.
- Place heavier items in the bottom of the box and lighter items on top.
- Separate items with paper to prevent scratches caused by rubbing.
- Remove lids from jars and ceramics. Wrap each separately.
- Seal any opened boxes and bottles before packing them to avoid spills and leakage.
- Use towels, linens, curtains, etc. to pad boxes of fragile items. Clearly mark these boxes "Fragile".
- Use a jumbo box for lampshades, and cushion them well.

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- When disassembling furniture, beds, lamps, etc., put the hardware into a plastic bag along with any assembly tips and tape onto the item itself.
- Ask your mover if you can leave clothes in the dresser drawers. Find out from your movers how they want hanging clothes packed.
- Make a master list of all household items and your belongings.
- Pack rugs last so they can be the first items unloaded and placed at your new location.
- Make a box or two of essentials and label them "Open Me First". Put these boxes to the side to be loaded last (so they are unloaded first) or move them yourself.

Your Essentials Box may Include

- Personal items such as a change of clothes, towel, prescription drugs, tooth brush and other personal items for each person in the household.
- Basic tools such as flashlights, pocketknife, hammer, screwdrivers, nails, masking tape, tape measure, and light bulbs.
- Bathroom essentials such as hand towels, soap, toilet paper, shampoo, and shower curtains.
- Kitchen necessities such as paper towels, coffee maker and filters, paper plates and cups, plastic utensils, dish detergent, a sponge, pet foods, dishes, and trash bags.

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TIMELINE *for a Successful Move*

MONTHS

From 1 to 2 Months Out From the Move

Two Months

- Time to figure out how you will get your household from here to there. Learn about your options and figure out a budget. Type "Moving" into your computer's search engine and you will see how many resources there are to help you make that budget, and hire a moving company or rent a truck. If you plan to ask friends to assist, call them now with the tentative date.
- Learn more about your new neighborhood. Surf the web or call the Chamber of Commerce in your new town.

Seven Weeks

- Begin organizing your possessions. Now is the time to see what you need to give away, sell or throw out. Plan your garage sale date. Throw out all frayed towels and ripped sheets. Sort old or broken toys.
- If your pet is due for an exam, take him or her to the vet. Ask for a referral to a vet near your new home. Obtain a copy of your pet's medical records and extra medications if needed.
- Make airline, car and hotel reservations if you are moving a long distance. Carefully check the flight schedules so you will arrive at least six hours before your movers are due at your new home. Get maps of your new area.
- Consider and research storage options by comparing pricing and security, as well as proximity to your new home.

Six Weeks

- Begin a running list of everything you will have to replace at your new location.
- If you'll be moving items of extraordinary value, look to see if you have sales slips for them. Have antiques, pieces of art, jewelry, collectibles, musical instruments, and other valuables appraised. Take photos and/or videos of the items. Record your household items in a journal, along with a photo of each room.
- Verify your new address and begin addressing your notification postcards or forms.
- Complete your research on professional movers and solicit price quotes. Think about the accessibility of your new home... is there a steep driveway that is likely to stump a large moving van? Be sure to discuss this and any other concerns with the moving company.
- If applicable, call your health insurance provider to ensure that you'll still have medical coverage in your new town. If you will, transfer the policy to your new address.
- Start using foods (in your cupboards, refrigerator, and freezer) and cleaning supplies that cannot be moved. Arrange for special transportation of your pets.
- Update, resign or transfer any memberships. Select your replacement if possible.
- Dispose of items that cannot be moved, such as flammable liquids. Toxic or environmentally damaging items such as motor oil, paint, solvents, anti-freeze, and gas in a grill may pose problems. Call your local Department of Public Works for suggestions. If you think you will be moving flammable/hazardous material, you must get permission from the Federal Highway Administration (toll-free, 1-800-688-9889).
- Request doctor and dentist referrals from your current practitioners. When you have made arrangements in your new town, request a transfer of your records.
- Keep a record of all your moving related expenses. Many of them are tax deductible!

Five Weeks

- Time to start that garage sale! Donate books to the local library, or take them to a used bookstore. If you're a web wiz, try selling items on eBay or similar auction sites.
- Plan your trip to your new home. If you are driving, plan some side trips and make it a mini-vacation!
- Update your car insurance. Contact your carrier or research prices – rates can vary wildly depending upon the state and city.
- Get a copy of your new floor plan or create your own, then start to plan your layout. Measure the rooms, doorways and stairways if possible to prevent surprises. Clean all the walls floors, windows, cabinets and closets while the home is still empty.
- Open a new bank account in your new city – and don't close the old one until all the checks clear!

WEEKS

From 1 to 4 Weeks Out From the Move

Four Weeks

- Check with your insurance company to find out how your possessions are covered during transit.
- Stock up on boxes, packing material, etc. for your move.
- Remind your friends of your moving date (especially if they are your moving team!).
- Arrange for temporary housing in your new town, if needed.
- Empty a room, the garage or a large closet to store packaged items.
- Pack all seasonal things, such as holiday decorations or winter/summer clothing, sports equipment, etc.
- Contact the DMV to see what requirements exist for drivers' licenses and car registration.
- Obtain an IRS Moving Expense form from the library, Post Office, or IRS Office. This will be easier to fill out now (versus waiting until next tax season). The IRS also has publications which explain tax deductions related to moving.
- Arrange special transportation for any fragile or valuable items.
- Apply for new memberships at clubs and other organizations in your new neighborhood to get a jump start on waiting lists.
- Get your car tuned and think about new tires before the journey to the new home.

Three Weeks

- Plan another garage or yard sale to get rid of everything that didn't sell before. Coordinate donation/disposal of

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TIMELINE *for a Successful Move (cont.)*

WEEKS

From 1 to 4 Weeks Out From the Move

anything not sold. Call local charities for pick-up, making sure you get a donation receipt for taxes. Books will normally be accepted at the local library.

- If your car is under warranty, call the dealership and request an address change. Ask for a referral to a reputable dealership or repair center in your new town.
- Sell or give away plants. They do not do well in transit, especially long trips, and most professional movers will not take them.
- Jot down any existing damage to your belongings and furniture.
- Sign up for internet service at your new home.
- Call the pharmacist and transfer your prescription to the new pharmacy. Ask your doctor for an extra prescription if you are worried that you won't have access before you settle into your new home.
- Have your pet groomed and request a referral.
- Connect utilities for service at your new home. Be sure to disconnect the day after you leave and connect the day before you arrive. In many cities, these services are now available online.
- Purchase a travel kennel or "seat belt" for your pet.
- Change your address with the Social Security Administration: 800-772-1213.
- Make sure your new home is pest free and contact an exterminator if necessary.

Two Weeks

- Plan to take appliances such as refrigerator, washer, dryer and microwave with you, unless these are built in or custom-sized for the space. Leave light fixtures, built-in cabinetry, phone jacks, etc.
- Plan for the arrival of your mover by ensuring that they have a place to park the truck. Plan to mark off a parking area with cones or chairs if necessary. Check with the city to see if you will need a parking permit.
- Inspect your new home. Check for damage from the old tenant. Arrange for cleaning if you haven't already done so.
- Ask your new town about leash laws and other pet requirements.
- Obtain a certificate of your pet's health from the vet. This is usually required if you will be traveling by plane.
- Return all library books, videos and any other borrowed or rented items.
- Prepare a stack of appliance warranties, special instructions and receipts for appliances, heating and cooling systems, and any electrical devices remaining in the home. Prepare a list of all contractors, electricians, carpenters and plumbers who did work on your home in the past. This is an especially nice welcome for the new owners. Ask the previous owner for any warranties and instruction manuals for appliances that will remain in your new home.

One Week

- Mow the lawn one last time.
- Check and close your safe-deposit box at the bank.
- Start packing! Begin with jewelry and other valuables.
- Confirm any travel reservations (rental cars, airfare, motels, etc.)
- Pick up everything that is at the dry cleaner.
- Finish sending out your moving notifications to friends, family and businesses.
- Subscribe to the newspaper in your new community.
- Watch your pet closely for signs of stress.
- Make arrangements for final trash pickup.
- Drain gasoline and oil from your lawnmower, barbecue grill and other machinery. Clean them before moving them.

DAYS

From 2 to 3 Days Out From the Move

Two to Three Days

- Make sure friends and businesses can find you at your new e-mail address.
- Disconnect and prepare major appliances for your move.
- All packing should be done or nearly completed. Pack a box of items that will be needed first at the new home e.g., toilet paper, paper towels, cleaning supplies, bed linens.
- Obtain cash or travelers checks for the trip if necessary. Make sure you have cash to tip professional movers if applicable. Get a bank check for payment of the movers.
- Take down any curtains, blinds, shelves, and other removable items that you are moving to your new home.
- Do a thorough cleaning, including emptying and cleaning trash cans and other house hold waste baskets. Collect the cleaning supplies you will need to clean the house or apartment after the boxes and furniture have been moved.

Move Out Day

- Get drinks and snacks for the moving crew.
- Have extra packing materials on hand, just in case.
- Tip the moving company crew $20 each if they did a good job, a little more if it was difficult. Don't let them leave until you've compared your goods to the drivers inventory sheet. If something is missing or damaged, make a note on the bill of laden and inventory sheet before you sign.
- Make sure you have arranged to turn off phone service, gas, electric, cable, etc. at your old home.
- Leave a telephone number and forwarding address with a neighbor, in case of emergency.
- Make sure all lights and any remaining appliances are turned off.
- Once the house is empty, do one last cleaning. Take out all of the garbage and make arrangements with a neighbor to make sure it gets picked up.
- Before departing your home, take one last walk through the entire house and make sure everything in the house has been packed. Check the attic and other spaces for any items you may have stored. Take a moment to remember all the goods times you and your family had in the house.
- Supervise unloading and unpacking if using professional movers.

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Moving with Children

Moving is difficult for adults, but imagine what it's like for children. They will be getting used to a new home, neighborhood, school, and trying to meet new friends. Plan around your childrens specific needs before, during, and after the transition and it will make a big difference in how your children feel about the move and how they adjust afterwards.

Before the Move

- Express your feelings to your children and give them the opportunity to talk about theirs. Children who have a chance to express them will work through their doubts more easily.
- Help older children compile a list of phone numbers and addresses of friends, relatives, and other important people in their lives. Knowing they can stay in touch with these important people will be reassuring.
- Take your children to your new home before you move and explore the new neighborhood and town or city together.
- Line up some activities for your child after the move, such as a sports team, music lessons, or a scouting troop. Activities like these keep your children involved and help them feel like part of the group.
- Your mood will impact your children's moods. Throughout the move, stay as upbeat and calm as you can.
- Involve your children in the planning and packing. Older children can put their own belongings in boxes, and children of all ages will enjoy decorating the boxes containing their things.
- Have meals and bedtimes at the same time as always during the moving period. Children find routine reassuring.
- Take special blankets, favorite books, and other prized items in the car or on the plane when you go to your new home.
- A party with friends is a fun way to say goodbye and celebrate friendship.
- Moving day might mean a long car trip or a cross-country flight. Add travel fun and games to your plans for a more pleasant trip.
- Help your child create a photo album with pictures of their old home and friends. This will allow them to express their feelings and allow you to reassure them that it is natural to feel loss and initial discomfort with such a big change.

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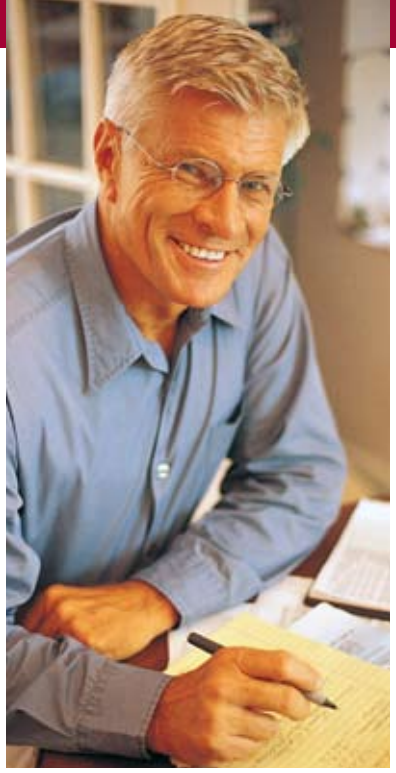
Change of Address Reminder List



The U.S. Postal Service has many helpful services to help you notify everyone of your address change. Visit www.usps.com to change your address, order moving supplies and even create personalized postcards with your new address. Or, drop by your local post office for notification forms. In addition to your friends and relatives, don't forget to notify businesses of your move. Here is a handy list of business people to help you compile your own list.

Insurance
- ☐ Auto Insurance
- ☐ Health Insurance
- ☐ Home Insurance
- ☐ Life Insurance

Miscellaneous
- ☐ Alumni Association
- ☐ Book Club
- ☐ Charitable Organizations
- ☐ CD/DVD Club
- ☐ Fraternal/Service Organizations
- ☐ Landlord/Tenants
- ☐ Organizations
- ☐ Schools

Personal
- ☐ Business Associates
- ☐ Friends & Relatives
- ☐ Religious Institutions

Professional Services
- ☐ Accountant
- ☐ Banks/Finance Companies
- ☐ Broker
- ☐ Doctor
- ☐ Dentist
- ☐ Lawyer
- ☐ Pharmacy
- ☐ Veterinarian

Publications
- ☐ Catalogues
- ☐ Magazines
- ☐ Newspapers/Newsletters
- ☐ Professional Trade Journals

Public Offices
- ☐ DMV
- ☐ Garbage & Refuse
- ☐ I.R.S.
- ☐ Library
- ☐ Post Office
- ☐ Selective Service
- ☐ Social Security Administration
- ☐ Veterans Administration

Utilities
- ☐ Cable Company
- ☐ Cell Phone/Telephone Company
- ☐ Electric Company
- ☐ Gas Company
- ☐ Water Company

Vendor Services
- ☐ Airline Frequent Flier Club
- ☐ Credit Cards
- ☐ Day Care Provider
- ☐ Department Stores
- ☐ Drinking Water
- ☐ Dry Cleaner/Laundry
- ☐ Pest Control Company
- ☐ Service Stations

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All About Unpacking

Looking around at the all the boxes and bare walls, unpacking may seem like a huge and difficult task. Soon, however, everything will be in its place and you will enjoy home, sweet home, again. Here are some tips to make unpacking more efficient and enjoyable.

Starting Points

Spare your nerves and family relationships by taking it easy. Your normal reaction may be to plunge into the disorder and try to put everything in its proper place as quickly as possible. Unpacking can be fun, so try to do everything possible to make it more like the end of an enjoyable adventure. Remember that you don't have to put everything away today, or even by the end of the week. Start with your family's basic needs (food, rest and bathing) and unpack accordingly, one room at a time.

The Bathroom

Start here with a quick check to make sure the facilities work as they should. Then unpack necessities: toilet paper, soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste, hairbrushes, towels and other vital items.

The Kitchen

Set up the basic things you need to prepare a simple meal and have a glass of water, as well as the kitchen table if you have one. This will be become the base of operations and a quiet haven from the rest of the chaos in the house. Resist the urge to unpack everything until you are sure of where you want to store those infrequently used or special occasion items.

The Bedrooms

If you don't have time to set up each bedroom, try for just the mattress and bedding. (Or, put all the mattresses and pillows together in the living room and have a family "campout.") Moving from bedroom to bedroom, set up the bed and other heavy furniture together, then let the bedroom dweller unpack and arrange his or her personal belongings.

The Living Room and Family Room

Make a sketch of the room before you start moving furniture. This will prevent needless and tiring repositioning. This is especially helpful if you are using professional movers.

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Decoration

Wait a couple of weeks before putting up pictures and other room décor. See how the furniture arrangement works, the various stages of room lighting through the day, and the home traffic patterns before you tackle this important job.

Storage and Other Tips

If space is at a premium, box up seasonal or sports items together with like items and label the box "Halloween" or "Football". Then store them in the garage or an available corner of the closet until the items are needed again. Since you are starting out with a "clean slate", now is also a good time to keep a running log of these storage boxes and what is contained in each.

Create a three ring binder with page protectors and tuck appliance warranties and instruction manuals in it. Keep the binder in a central location where it can be found when it comes time to figure out how to turn on the heater!

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After Your Move

Getting there isn't the last step! Here are some tips to help you get settled.

- Make your new home yours by making a wish list of short term and long term improvements.
- To make your new home seem more like home, hang your child's or family portrait in a prominent location or create a tabletop display of family photographs as soon as possible.
- Don't spend too much time unpacking—at least not right away! In the first few days, take time to enjoy your new home with your family. Take walks, tour the neighborhood, local landmarks and restaurants.
- Make sure your new home is secure. Check all doors and windows, and set the alarm system to your liking (if applicable).
- Above all, listen. If you can, be home when your children return from their first day at school so you can hear all the news. Ask them regularly how things are going, and take time to listen. Fitting in to a new place takes time, and children can get discouraged, so your support is important.
- Keep pets inside for a few days until they are feeling more comfortable.
- Take pictures of the new home, new neighborhood playmates, family members and school, etc. Start a new family album to show there is fun and family togetherness available at the new home.

One Week After Your Move

- Check your fireplace carefully before you light a fire. If you are renting, talk with your landlord before you start. Consider cleaning both the fireplace and the chimney before using. For local chimney sweeps, check your phone company's Yellow Pages listings.
- Check in with your previous landlord to make sure your security deposit amount is in the mail.
- Locate the nearest police station, fire station and hospital.
- Install a new smoke alarm or change the batteries. Purchase a fire extinguisher and map out a safe escape route for your family.
- Paint your new closets. Since you are starting over, this is a quick way to start really fresh.
- Time to let pets wander outside (if they are allowed). Sit outside for a while and enjoy the weather as you introduce them to your new back yard.

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Two Weeks After Your Move

- You should have received all sets of keys to your new home. If you are unsure, change the locks or add a dead bolt.
- Call your new vet or the city about purchasing a pet license.
- Call the Internal Revenue Service to change your address (800.829.3676) or visit them online at www.irs.gov.
- Visit the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to update your driver's license or ID card. Many cities require proof of residence, so make sure that you have appropriate documents available.
- Visit or call your local town hall about changing your voter registration address.
- If all the checks have cleared, close all accounts at your old bank.

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Moving Guide

Energy Saving Tips for Your New Home

Consider some small lifestyle changes that you, as a consumer, can make to help conserve the energy supply. Utility providers maintain that if consumers cut back only 10%–15% of their daily energy consumption, we can completely eliminate the need for blackouts.

Simple Steps to Energy Savings

- Replace and recycle your old refrigerator and purchase energy-efficient models.
- Put an insulating blanket around your water heater.
- Close windows when heating or cooling. Close off doors and vents in unused areas.
- When going on vacation, shut off or turn down automatic appliances.
- Turn off computers, peripherals, laser printers and fax machines when they are not in use.
- Fix defective plumbing or dripping faucets.
- Use your microwave or outdoor barbecue for summer meals.
- Do only full loads when using your clothes washer and dryer. Be sure to clean your dryer's lint trap after each use. On sunny days, hang your clothes out to dry.
- Hang wet casual wear or children's clothing outside, right on the plastic hangers (metal hangers will rust and ruin your clothes).
- Put frequently used appliances like microwaves, stereo components and home entertainment items (TV, VCR, etc.) on power strips.
- Use Mechanical Time Switches.
- Cut water usage in half: Add a water aerator to each of your faucets.
- Visit your utility company's website to find out more about energy saving tips, rebates, time of use rate reductions and special programs for your area.

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A note to let you know that ***We Have Moved*** to a new home.
Here is our new contact information...

Name: _____

New Address: _____

_____

New Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

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STAMP

TO:

We've moved!

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