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Moving Checklist

Experts recommend that starting the moving process two months in advance will give most people enough time to plan appropriately without causing too much stress.

Following this moving checklist will help keep things organized.

8 weeks before move:

- Survey the contents of your home.
- Call your child's new school to see what records they will need, and ask where they should be sent.
- Contact the old school to request the records needed for the new school.
- Hire a realtor and get that house on the market.
- When you select your new home, get pictures of each room and make a floor plan.

7 weeks before the move:

- Call your local clothing and furniture donation stores and get the hours and pickup/drop off options.
- Now the fun begins. Start going through your closets and get rid of things you don't need or want anymore.
- Contact the utility companies for the new and old home and arrange for service change on or around your move day.
- Start to slow down with groceries, eat what you have and buy minimal things.

6 weeks:

- Let your family and friends know where you're going.
- Get change of address forms from post office.
- Not a very busy week, just preparing you for the weeks to come.

5 weeks:

- Time to find a mover, or if you're moving yourself, get a truck rented.
- Call your insurance company; see what coverage you may have for hiring a mover or doing it yourself.
- If you're in an apartment, contact the manager and arrange for the use of the elevator.
- Cancel or arrange for newspapers or magazines to be delivered to your new home.
- The packing begins. Start packing any items that are not used very often.
- Figure out what furniture you are keeping and what you are not. Start planning on ways to get rid of it.

4 weeks:

- Fill out an IRS change of address form.
- Start a list for everything that will be packed into your luggage, few outfits, deodorant, cell phone, or whatever else you may need for the first night in your new home.
- Now you've contacted the utility companies already but did you remember the alarm company.

3 weeks: getting closer.

- If you have children or pets, find someone that can take them for the move day.
- How's the packing coming along, don't forget to check the attic, garage and basement.
- Most plants don't travel well in a moving van; think about giving them away or taking your chances.

2 weeks:

- Most of your packing should be done by now. Find some volunteers (friends, family) for the last couple days before the move to finish up last minute packing.
- Go out and have a little fun. Hang out with the neighbors or go to some local attractions that you may miss when moving.
- Start a meal plan for the final week before the move; use up any food that's left in the fridge or cabinets.
- Don't forget to return any movie rentals or library books.

1 week to go:

- Most important thing this week, confirm the moving date and details with your moving company or rental agency.
- Finish packing all the last minute items. Leave yourself a few things.
- Look over all your packed boxes; make sure they are labeled properly.
- One more swipe with the lawnmower or snow blower then drain the fuel for transport.
- Defrost freezer and drain the water for transport.

You made it! It's moving day:

- Pack all last minute items
- Unplug all of the appliances.
- Don't go into hiding stay involved in the process.
- Lock all windows and doors.
- Look over the bill of lading very carefully before the driver leaves.