

## Moving Tips

### Preparation is Key

*The better prepared you are, the smoother your move will go. It's hard to think of everything on your own, so we've prepared this timeline/checklist to help you plan your move and avoid any last-minute surprises.*

### 8 Weeks Out

- **Choose a moving company:** Ask friends or family for a recommendation, do research online, and call to ask questions. If you'll need storage, make those arrangements now, too.
- **Get organized:** Create a folder or binder for all moving-related paperwork. Save your receipts for tax deductions, or if your move is employer-sponsored.
- **Stay, or go:** Start thinking about what you'll keep, sell, donate or discard. Get the exact measurements of your new living quarters if you haven't already. Consider having a garage sale, or selling unwanted items online.

### 6 Weeks Out

- **Get supplies:** Buy packing materials, boxes, tape, markers and bubble wrap. Don't forget the wardrobe boxes, and think about any fragile or bulky items you'll need to make special arrangements for.
- **Spread the news:** Make a list of everyone you need to notify about your new address: family, friends, DMV, service providers, creditors, subscriptions.
- **Get familiar:** Subscribe to the print and/or digital newspaper in your new town.

### 5 Weeks Out

- **Get Coverage:** Contact insurers (auto, homeowners or renters, medical, life) to update your coverage.
- **Notify schools:** If you have kids, tell the staff at their schools of the impending move. Get copies of their school records and check into the enrollment process in your new location.
- **Medical records:** Get copies of your family's medical records and consider asking for a referral in your new area. Do the same for your pets.

# The Padded Wagon

## 4 Weeks Out

- **Change your address:** Submit a Change of Address form to the post office.  
Make travel arrangements: Flying? Consider getting a ticket you can change/refund, in case something comes up. Driving? Get a tune-up and an oil change.
- **Pet plans:** Make any special arrangements necessary for your pets to travel or board during your move.
- **Start packing:** Box up the things you won't need for the next several weeks. Make sure you label the boxes!
- **Give notice: If you rent, let your landlord know you're moving out. Begin any work (painting, cleaning carpets) you'll need in order to get your security deposit back.**

## 3 Weeks Out

- **Turn it off, turn it on:** Contact utilities and other service providers to cancel your current service and set up new accounts.
- **Have your garage sale:** Make arrangements to donate or discard whatever doesn't sell.

## 2 Weeks Out

- **Eat with purpose:** Use up food items that you don't want to move. Plan ahead to have nothing left by your move date.
- **Pack, pack, pack!:** Set aside only the items you'll need to use in the next 2 weeks, and pack everything else. Don't forget to clearly label every box.
- **Valuables aside:** Carefully pack up any valuables, jewelry or heirlooms and put them in a safe place to transport yourself.
- **Clean up:** Think about hiring professionals to do the final cleaning at your old place, and to ready your new place for your arrival.
- **At your disposal:** Properly dispose of any items that can't be moved, like cleaning materials, propane, or paint.

## 1 Week Out

- **Confirm:** Check in with your mover to confirm the time and date of the move.
- **Get your stuff:** Withdraw contents of safety deposit box, pick up any outstanding dry cleaning, return any rented items, etc.
- **Pack the essentials:** Prepare a suitcase with items you will need right away at your new place, and put it aside to take with you.

# The Padded Wagon

- **Collect important papers:** Make sure any documents you'll need during the move or immediately thereafter are set aside, easy to access, and safe.
- **Leave the liquids:** Drain gas and oil from any power equipment (snow blower, lawn mower) being moved.

## 2 Days Before

- **Empty and defrost your fridge/freezer:** Be sure you block the doors open, so pets and children cannot become trapped.
- **Don't touch:** Check one more time to ensure any items you're bringing with you personally are separate from what's being packed into the moving truck.

## Moving Day

- **Work with your movers:** Be there when movers arrive, and point out any large or fragile items right away. Stay until the movers are done, and have left. Give them a list of telephone numbers and/or addresses where you can be reached throughout the moving process.
- **One final sweep:** Before the movers pull away, do a final check of your home to make sure nothing was left behind.
- **Make a note:** Record all utility meter readings before you leave.
- **Check your bill:** Read the paperwork from the moving company carefully, and keep until all charges and claims, if any, have been settled.

### Items That Can't be Moved

***Not everything can or should go on the moving truck. Make other arrangements for the following:***

**Perishable goods:** frozen or open food items, plants, produce, refrigerated items

**Hazardous or flammable materials:** aerosols, chemicals (ammonia, cleaning solvents, bleach, paint thinner, nail polish remover, etc), ammunition, batteries, lighter/matches, fireworks, gasoline/kerosene/propane, pesticides/poison/weed killer, charcoal

**Valuable/sentimental items:** travel documents, photos, medication, financial/medical records, keys, schoolwork, jewelry