



Comprehensive Guide to Preparing for a Big Move

Abstract

Moving to a new home, whether across the street or across the country, is a significant life event that requires careful planning and organization. "Comprehensive Guide to Preparing for a Big Move" offers a step-by-step approach to help you tackle every aspect of the moving process. From the initial stages of planning and creating a moving checklist to efficiently packing your belongings, this guide ensures that no detail is overlooked.

The guide covers practical tips for choosing the right moving company, managing logistics like utilities and services, and minimizing costs to stay within your budget. It also emphasizes the importance of decluttering and organizing your belongings to make the move easier and more cost-effective.

In addition, the guide offers advice on handling the complexities of long-distance moves, including navigating new cities, managing paperwork, and adjusting to different time zones. With expert insights on stress management and important timelines, you can confidently prepare for your move.

Whether you're moving locally or long-distance, this guide will help streamline your preparations and make the transition to your new home as smooth and stress-free as possible. With practical tools and tips, you'll be well-equipped to handle any challenges that come your way.

Getting Started

Preparing for a big move can feel overwhelming, but breaking it down into manageable steps will make the process much smoother. The key to a successful move is early planning, organization, and a clear action plan. Start by setting a timeline that outlines what tasks need to be done and when, so you don't feel rushed as the moving day approaches.

Begin by assessing your current living situation and deciding what items you want to take with you. Decluttering early will not only save time but can also help reduce moving costs. Once you've decided on what to keep, start creating a list of tasks that need to be completed, such as notifying utility companies, updating your address, and hiring a moving company.

By organizing your tasks in advance, you'll ensure that no detail is overlooked. This guide will walk you through each phase of the moving process, providing useful tips and expert advice to make your move as easy and cost-effective as possible. Whether you're moving locally or across the country, following the steps in this guide will help you stay organized and confident every step of the way.

1. What are the first steps to take when planning a big move?



Getting everything you own from one home to another can be difficult to orchestrate. So, rather than just play it by ear and hope everything gets done in time, it's a good idea to make a solid plan for how to move well in advance of relocation.

There are plenty of reasons to pack up your belongings and find new digs. Is your family growing? Are you in search of lower rent or moving to live in a better home? Has a new job or job transfer landed you in a new city?

No matter the reason for the change of scenery, these moving and packing tips to make the moving process smoother.

1. Take Care of Address Change Details First

Once you've unpacked your last box at your new home, you might consider celebrating with a drink, a nice meal or by collapsing on your newly arranged couch. The last thing you want in that moment is to find more tedious tasks on your to-do list.

Save yourself the annoyance by taking care of your change of address requests first. They rarely take effect immediately, so notifying the post office, bank and other important contacts — like that monthly candle subscription you splurged on — before you start packing will ensure everything is updated and in order by your move-in date. If you can, schedule service with utility companies in advance.

2. Make a Master List of Moving Tasks

It's easier to remember what you need to do if you sit down and make a list. That also gives you the opportunity to check off to-do items as you go, which is always satisfying.

A moving checklist will help you organize your thoughts, and it should be made several months in advance of your move. Including deadlines is paramount; some tasks need to be completed before others, so schedule deadlines accordingly and stick to them.

While you're in list-making mode, make an inventory of what you're moving for insurance purposes. This inventory will be helpful as you unpack as well to ensure you're not missing anything.

3. Don't Pay For Packing Supplies

You can get all of your moving boxes for free from package and grocery stores.

Moving is a lot of work and, even if you're moving to a more affordable place, it can really drain your wallet. So why pay for moving supplies if you can save money by getting them for free? Have you estimated the number of cardboard boxes you will need for your belongings? Well, multiply that number by 20 percent, just to be safe, and start hitting up your local appliance or department stores.

You might try your local grocery or package store as well, but avoid boxes that carry frozen foods or produce as they may have water damage or food stains. Ask someone when the store expects shipments. They may even volunteer to set some boxes and packing paper aside for you.

After a few trips to the right store, you'll have all of the boxes, cardboard dividers, packing paper and bubble wrap you need without the high price tag.

Start saving household items like toilet paper rolls (you can pack jewelry in them), tissue paper and small boxes. Even that plastic bag from your last trip to the grocery store will be helpful when wrapping fragile items. Hopefully, the only thing you'll need to buy is packing tape.

4. Plan New Rooms as You Pack the Old

You won't be able to replicate everything in your new home exactly the way it was in your old one, and who would want to anyway? Your new place is a fresh palette for new ideas.

But taking pictures of every room before you start packing items will help you plan how to unpack. It will save you a lot of time too. While you're taking pictures, snap some of your important documents in case they get lost in the move.

You can see what worked (maybe your dining room table really needs to be directly under a chandelier) and remember what may be hidden in an unpacked box. Knowing, for example, that

your scissors are in the same box as your home office supplies and not with your toolbox will help you avoid a major headache later.

Don't forget to take pictures of complicated electronic hook-ups, such as for entertainment systems, to help you put them back together. If you can find a floor plan for your new home, you'll have an even more detailed plan.

When packing, color-code boxes according to room. Use colored masking tape to label boxes or different colored stickers to indicate where each box belongs.

5. Research Moving Companies



Professional movers will cost you more money, but will save you time and energy.

If you're short on time or you just hate the idea of walking up and down stairs with countless heavy boxes — or you're moving across the country — you might want to look into hiring movers. While professional movers can be expensive, they don't have to be.

Be sure to get quotes from several moving companies, and don't be shy about the fact that you're shopping around. Making companies aware that you're checking out the competition might just result in a lower quote.

Ask about different options, from a semi-DIY move to full-service movers. If you haven't already, create a moving budget based on your research.

If you have flexibility on your moving date, ask if you can wait to be added to a moving truck that is going to the same area. This will reduce the cost of long-distance moves. Finally, make sure you know your rights and purchase additional insurance if necessary.

6. Ask Your Friends to Help

Even if you hire movers, and especially if you don't hire a moving company, you'll need some other people to help you carry items out of your old house and into your new one.

If you plan to rely heavily on friends to help with your move, you need to make sure they're committed to your plight. And you need to line up your friendly labor early in the game. If you want help, it's best to schedule your move for a weekend day, when most people are off work. When your helpers arrive, have a plan in place for what each person should do; assign each friend a particular set of boxes or a specific room to focus on.

Be sure to thank each person individually and, even better, schedule some sort of formal thank-you for everyone, such as a dinner out or a cookout at your new place the next weekend. They deserve it.

7. Get Your New Place in Tip-top Shape

Getting most home projects and cleaning out of the way before you move in will make those jobs much easier to complete.

If you're moving to a fixer-upper, there might be some plans you have for your new place. Whether you hope to paint, do minor repairs, conduct extensive renovations or simply give the place a nice squeaky-clean shine, try to do so before you move in and start the unpacking process.

Any projects you have planned will be easier and faster if they're completed before your boxes and furnishings arrive.

If you don't have time to get in there yourself, consider hiring some help who can complete your tasks while you finish packing for the move. You'll have a much better chance of making your plans a reality.

8. Read Up on How to Drive a Rental Truck

If you're going to drive your own rental truck or van, read up on how to drive it before you get out on the road. There are several things to keep in mind when you're driving a truck: First, if you normally drive a sedan, the truck is going to be much wider than what you're used to driving. It's also heavier than a car, so it won't stop as quickly. Be sure there's more than one car length between your truck and the vehicle ahead of you at all times.

Pay attention to road signs regarding trucks, never pass a vehicle moving more than 40 miles per hour and, unless you're particularly adept at using your side-view mirrors, avoid backing up as much as possible. It's tricky.

9. Have Rugs, Drapes and Slipcovers Cleaned

Take advantage of the move to have rugs, drapes and other soft goods dry cleaned so they're fresh and clean when you move in.

Moving is the perfect occasion to have some things cleaned that tend to go without cleaning for long periods of time. For example, if your couch has a cover that can be removed, you can send that cover and the cushion slipcovers to the cleaners for a good washing.

The same goes for your rugs (depending on what they're made of). Drapes, shower curtains and bed skirts are other fabric items that should be washed before they're moved. You don't want to bring dirty, dusty fabrics into your new home, so clean them before you move.

10. Purge



Moving is a great time to maximize space — and minimize the amount of stuff you need to pack — by getting rid of stuff. Who wants to waste time packing clothes you don't wear anymore, anyway?

If your home is cluttered, then you may need to schedule when you'll address each pile of junk over the next few months before the move. Go through each pile more than once, setting aside the definite giveaways in garbage bags during the first sweep and the less obvious giveaways during the next couple of sweeps.

Keep in mind that you can donate many of the items to charity. Go online to see what local charities you'd like to support and figure out which ones will benefit most by what you have to donate. Don't forget to keep a record what you donate and get a receipt for your taxes. If you have more time on your hands, you can schedule a garage sale before your move.

2. How can you create a detailed moving checklist to stay organized?

Relocating to a new residence is always exciting. But the same cannot be said for the process of packing and moving. It can be stressful, time-consuming, and demands careful attention. So, it is essential to be prepared and organised because you have to consider many things. Each step must be carefully planned and executed, from packing your household items to settling into a new residence. On top of basic moving tasks, such as organising and packing, you must complete a few more tasks to ensure safe long-distance removals. One such task is hiring budget removalists Brisbane since DIY moving is very tough to complete in such cases. Here is the complete checklist for long-distance moving. Follow this step-by-step plan to streamline your move.

Eight Weeks Before the Move

A few tasks must be completed as soon as your move is confirmed to avoid inconveniences later on. Here are the tasks you must complete 8 weeks before your move:

Determine Your Budget

Before doing anything, it is vital to budget for your move. It must cover all the anticipated expenses, such as hiring professional removalists Brisbane and suitable packing supplies. It will help you understand how much you can afford for quality service, essential equipment, and materials.

Sort and Declutter Next

ensuring that you will only move the items used at the new residence is crucial. So, go through each room in your current home and analyse each item based on their frequency of usage and condition. Simply donate, sell or discard the stuff you do not utilise anymore.

Search Moving Companies

Searching professionals that offer services such as interstate removals Brisbane 8 weeks before the move is an ideal option. It will give you enough time to ask for detailed quotes, compare companies, and schedule the move.

Six Weeks Before the Move

Six weeks before the move is certainly a great time to complete a few essential tasks, including ensuring you are ready to pack your home.

Inform the Schools

If you have kids, you should notify their school about the change of address. Collect copies of their school records. Moreover, learn about the enrolment process at the schools near your new home.

Host a Garage Sale



After decluttering, you will have a few items ready to be sold. So, this is the perfect time to get rid of them. You will also earn some extra money by hosting a garage sale. You can utilise that money for moving-related expenses.

Collect Packing Supplies

Packaging your items using adequate supplies is essential to keep them safe during the move.

Purchase the necessary stuff like:

- Packing tape
- Packing paper
- Cardboard Boxes
- Markers
- Bubble wrap

Buying them early will ensure there are no delays in the packing process.

Four Weeks Before the Move

As the moving date gets closer, you will need to deal with plenty of tasks. It is essential to focus on one at a time.

Book the Removalists

If you did the research, then you might have shortlisted a few professional removalists Brisbane. This is the ideal time to finalise your decision and pick a company you feel confident in. Confirm the date, time and other details of your move.

Discontinue Utility Services

Now, let all your utility service providers know about your change of address. Inform them that you want to close the service at your current place. Also, learn about setting it up at the new residence. You should also notify other relevant parties, such as banks, about your change of address.

Pack the Non-Essentials

Begin packing the items that you do not use frequently. This can be things like out-of-season clothing. Use proper techniques and adequate-sized boxes, and ensure you label each box.

Two Weeks Before Moving

It is now time to pick up the pace and take care of the most important tasks of the moving process. Here are the ones you must complete 2 weeks before the move.

Analyse the Food Situation

Use the food items that you do not want to move. Ensure nothing is left in the freezer when the moving day arrives. Prepare a plan to consume everything that is opened up.

Do not forget to review your insurance policy. If applicable, transfer your current one to the new home or explore a different supplier.

Pack the Delicate Stuff

It is now the perfect time to box up most of your essential items. Pack delicate items like mugs, plates, glasses, etc. Also, disassemble and pack all your furniture. Make sure you are using the right tools and techniques.

A Day Before the Move

Once you are close to the moving date, there will be a few essential things you will need to take care of.

Pack an Essential Bag

This bag will include all the stuff you need immediately upon arrival. It includes things like toiletries, blankets, charging cables, etc.

Confirm the Pickup Time

Contact the professional removalists Brisbane you hired and confirm the time of pickup. Ensure the time is as early as possible to complete the long-distance move sooner.

The Moving Day



On the moving day, you just need to ensure all your stuff is ready for pickup. Here are the things you need to do.

Load the Items

Help the professionals load and place the items in the truck. Let them know which items need special attention and proper handling.

Take One Last Look

Do a final check of your house before moving out to make sure all your items have been loaded. Lastly, return the keys to the landlord.

Wrapping Up

Moving long distances is no easy thing. It requires a proper plan, which must include several crucial tasks. By following the checklist from this article, you can certainly manage to make your long-distance move a success.

3. What are the best strategies for packing your belongings efficiently?

Packing for a move can be overwhelming. However, you can substantially lower the stress of the experience by planning ahead. Creating a checklist is a great first step. We've researched packing strategies and identified a number of tips and tricks to make the process easier. With your belongings securely packed, you'll have less to worry about on moving day.

1. Declutter and Downsize

Downsizing will prevent you from moving things to your new home that you'll eventually toss, and it will make packing faster.

Take the following steps to declutter:

1. Use one of your house's smallest rooms, such as your home office or a hallway closet, as a decluttering space.
2. Sort items into three piles—keep, give away, and toss. The things you plan to keep go into one pile. Gently used items that you don't need go into a second pile. Items in poor condition go into a third pile.
3. Pack the items in the keep pile that you don't plan on using before moving day.
4. Give your gently used items to a charity, a place of worship, or a donation center. You can also sell them.
5. Throw out the items you can't donate and don't want to keep. Hire a junk removal company if necessary.

2. Get the Right Supplies

Invest in quality packing supplies to protect your belongings. Check sites such as Amazon for the items below, or pick some up from your local hardware store. You may have to rent equipment like blankets and dollies from a moving truck company.

- **Boxes:** Get moving boxes that are sturdy and durable to protect your items during transport.
- **Bubble wrap or packing paper:** Wrap your delicate items in bubble wrap or packing paper to keep them safe.
- **Furniture dollies:** Place your heavy or oversized belongings on dollies to make them easier to move during loading and unloading.
- **Labels and markers:** Be prepared to label each box, bin, or bag you pack.
- **Moving blankets:** Wrap your furniture in moving blankets to protect it during transport.
- **Packing or masking tape:** Use tape to close boxes and to secure your moving blankets to your furniture.
- **Plastic bags:** Use sealable plastic bags to keep your smaller items organized and accessible.

- **Plastic bins:** Consider putting fragile, delicate, or particularly important items in clear, stackable plastic bins for better protection and easy location.
- **Scissors or box cutters:** These will be especially helpful while you're unpacking.
- **Stretch wrap:** Use stretchy plastic wrap to protect your couch or other furniture pieces from rips, dents, and scratches.
- **Vacuum-sealed storage bags:** You can reduce the bulk of clothes, linens, and towels by packing them in storage bags and vacuuming the air out.

3. Keep an Inventory of Your Possessions



Use a color-coded inventory system to help you stay organized. Assign each room a different color and label corresponding items with the same color. Create a list of your belongings, note the rooms to which they belong, and assign colors using paper and pen or an electronic document.

Don't be afraid to get very specific with your labeling. If you're using cardboard boxes, you may want to simply write a list of the contents on the outside of the box with a Sharpie or similar marker. Don't rely on memory to tell where your items are packed.

4. Pack Efficiently

The packing techniques below can save you time while you prepare for your move.

- Conserve space by packing plates vertically.
- Fill empty spaces in boxes with paper towels, packing paper, and other fillers to ensure items don't shift during transport.
- Pack the items you don't need early.
- Use suitcases and duffel bags as packing containers. Wheeled suitcases can make transporting heavy items easier.
- Place your heavy and fragile items in small boxes. Pack clothes and non-fragile belongings, such as pots and pans, in large boxes.
- Use packing tape to ensure your containers are closed securely.

5. Empty and Disassemble Furniture Before Wrapping

Empty each piece of furniture, remove any drawers, and use tools to disassemble legs and other removable parts. You can save a great deal of space in a moving truck by placing headboards, table tops, and other furniture items on their sides against a wall. Keep any disassembled pieces together with tape, rubber bands, and stretch wrap. Place hardware in a small plastic bag and tape it to its corresponding item after disassembling it. Label each bag in case it gets detached during the move.

6. Use Drawers as Packing Containers

If your dresser drawers aren't too heavy, don't empty them. Simply remove them from the dresser, wrap them in plastic wrap, and transport the contents that way.

7. Take Pictures of Electronics Wiring

You can take pictures of your television, cable box, and electronic hookups before detaching them. Refer to those photos as a guide to help you reconnect everything once you've moved. Take out any batteries or cartridges. Pack electronics either in their original packaging or cushioned with bubble wrap. Label cords and put them in sealable plastic bags to protect them from moisture.

8. Leave Fitted Sheets on Mattresses

Keep your fitted sheets on your mattresses to protect them while they're in the moving truck. You won't have to buy mattress covers, which will save you money. Remove and wash your fitted sheets upon arriving at your new place.

9. Cover Hanging Clothes With Garbage Bags

One way to protect your hanging clothes is with wardrobe boxes. However, these do cost substantially more than regular boxes. To save money, you can cover hanging clothes in trash

bags. Group your clothing on hangers and secure the hanger hooks with rubber bands before adding your protective material.

10. Pack Completely Before Moving Day

Waiting until the last minute to pack can lead to an unorganized and overwhelming move. Make sure all your items are packed before moving day, even if you have to quickly pack your house in the days leading up to it. You could lose money if you wait, as many professional movers charge by the hour. The last things you should pack are cleaning and packing supplies.

11. Pack a Moving Bag



Don't forget to pack a suitcase with all your essential items, such as a change of clothes, pajamas, valuables, toiletries, toilet paper, towels, and sheets. This will make arriving at your new place much easier. Include a first-aid kit in case you get any cuts or bruises during your move.

Our Conclusion

Moving day will go much more smoothly if you follow our packing tips. We recommend you start early, declutter your home, and invest in the supplies that are best for your move. Consider hiring professional packers if you're short on time or have trouble staying organized.

4. How do you choose the right moving company for your relocation?

Choosing the right moving company is crucial for ensuring a smooth and stress-free move. With so many options available, knowing how to choose a moving company efficiently can save you time, money, and hassle. This article will provide a comprehensive guide to help you navigate this important decision.

Understanding Your Moving Needs

Before you start your search, it's essential to assess the scope of your move. Determine whether you are moving locally or long-distance, the size of your household, and any special requirements you might have, such as moving fragile or valuable items. This initial assessment will help you decide on the services you need from the moving company.

Knowing what services you require is also important. Some moving companies offer full-service moves, including packing, loading, transporting, and unpacking, while others might only handle the transportation. By clearly defining your needs, you can narrow down your options and choose a moving company that can meet your specific requirements.

Setting a Budget

Setting a budget is a critical step in the moving process. Start by estimating the costs associated with your move. This includes the base moving fee, which is often determined by the distance of the move and the weight of your belongings. Be sure to also account for additional services like packing, storage, and insurance.

Hidden fees can quickly inflate your moving costs. Be aware of potential extra charges such as fees for moving large or heavy items, long carry fees if the movers need to transport items over a long distance from your home to the truck, and fees for navigating stairs or elevators. Understanding these potential costs will help you set a realistic budget and avoid unexpected expenses.

Researching Moving Companies

Researching potential moving companies is an essential part of the selection process. Start by using online resources to find companies with good reviews and ratings.

Websites like the Better Business Bureau (BBB) and the American Moving and Storage Association (AMSA) provide valuable information on the credibility and reliability of moving companies.

Additionally, ask friends, family, and colleagues for referrals. Personal recommendations can be incredibly valuable, as they come from people who have had firsthand experiences with the

movers. Collecting a list of potential movers from both online research and personal referrals will give you a solid starting point.

Checking for Proper Licensing and Insurance

One of the most important steps in choosing a moving company efficiently is to verify that the company is properly licensed and insured.

Check for the company's Department of Transportation (DOT) number if they operate interstate, and ensure they have the necessary state licenses for local moves. You can verify this information through the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) website.

Understanding the insurance options available is also crucial. Most moving companies offer different levels of protection, including full value protection and released value protection. Make sure to ask about these options and choose the one that best suits your needs to ensure your belongings are covered during the move.



Reading Reviews and Testimonials

Reading reviews and testimonials can provide insight into the experiences of past customers. Look for patterns in the reviews, such as consistent praise or complaints about specific aspects of the service. Pay attention to how the company responds to negative reviews, as this can indicate their commitment to customer satisfaction.

Testimonials from past customers can offer a more personal perspective. Many companies will provide references upon request, so don't hesitate to ask for contact information of previous clients. Speaking directly with past customers can give you a better understanding of what to expect from the moving company.

Getting Multiple Quotes

Obtaining multiple quotes is a vital step in how to choose a moving company efficiently. Aim to get at least three estimates from different movers. This allows you to compare prices and services to find the best deal. While online quotes can be convenient, in-home estimates are generally more accurate and provide a better basis for comparison.

During an in-home estimate, the representative will take inventory of your belongings and discuss any special requirements. This process ensures that the quote you receive reflects the actual scope of the move, reducing the likelihood of unexpected costs later on.

Comparing Estimates

When comparing estimates, it's important to understand the differences between binding and non-binding quotes. A binding quote guarantees the price you will pay, even if the actual move costs more. A non-binding quote, on the other hand, is subject to change based on the actual weight and size of your shipment.

Carefully review each estimate, paying close attention to the fine print. Ensure that all services and fees are clearly outlined and ask for clarification if anything is unclear. Comparing estimates side-by-side will help you identify the best value and avoid any hidden costs.

Scheduling In-Home Estimates

Scheduling in-home estimates is a crucial part of how to choose a moving company efficiently. Prepare for these estimates by making a list of all the items you plan to move and any special requirements you have. During the estimate, ask questions about the company's experience, services, and policies.

The estimator should provide detailed information and answer all your questions thoroughly. A good estimator will also offer tips on how to save money and prepare for your move. This interaction can give you a sense of the company's professionalism and customer service.

Understanding the Contract

Before finalizing your decision, carefully review the contract provided by the moving company. Ensure that all terms and conditions are clearly stated, including the estimated cost, services included, and payment terms. Be wary of any blank spaces or vague language in the contract. Look for red flags such as unusually large deposits or requirements for cash payments. A reputable moving company will provide a transparent and detailed contract that protects both parties and outlines all aspects of the move.

Considering Additional Services



Many moving companies offer additional services that can make your move easier. These services might include packing and unpacking, temporary storage, and specialty item handling. Evaluate your needs and consider whether these services would be beneficial for your move. While these services come at an extra cost, they can save you time and reduce the stress of moving. Discuss the available options with the moving company and factor these services into your overall budget.

Avoiding Moving Scams

Being aware of common moving scams is an essential part of how to choose a moving company efficiently. Some scams include bait-and-switch tactics, holding belongings hostage, and inflated charges. To avoid these, always verify the company's credentials, read reviews, and be cautious of any deals that seem too good to be true.

Never sign a blank contract and always ensure that all details are documented in writing. If something feels off or the company is hesitant to provide information, it's better to choose another mover.

Finalizing Your Choice

Once you have evaluated all your options, it's time to make a final decision. Choose the moving company that offers the best balance of price, services, and reliability. Confirm all details of the move with the company, including the date, time, and any special requirements.

Communicate your expectations clearly and make sure you have a point of contact for any questions or concerns. Finalizing your choice with confidence will help ensure a smooth and successful move.

Post-Move Checklist

After the move, take the time to inspect your belongings and ensure everything has arrived in good condition. If there are any damages or missing items, file a claim with the moving company as soon as possible. Most companies require claims to be filed within a certain timeframe, so don't delay.

Keep a copy of the signed inventory list and all related documents for your records. Following these steps will help you resolve any issues quickly and ensure you are satisfied with your moving experience.

5. What are the common moving mistakes to avoid?

If you're prepping to move houses or apartments, you'll want to make sure that you're covering all of your bases and steering clear of common pitfalls so that the process is as seamless as possible. What errors will you want to be sure to avoid? We spoke with moving experts to find out.

Below, they share five common mistakes that people often make while moving. Don't worry, though, these issues are all avoidable if you take the time to do just a little bit of prep in advance of the big day.

Not Packing in Advance

Adequately preparing for a move means taking plenty of time in advance to pack all of your belongings so that you're not scrambling at the last minute.

"Packing can take longer than anticipated, and leaving it until the last minute can lead to a rushed and disorganized moving process," Zezo Elazazzy, a elite tasker at Taskrabbit, says. Moving is stressful enough as it is, and spreading out your packing tasks well in advance will make the week of your move less chaotic. Plus, if you're moving out of state, you may wish to use those last few days to visit favorite restaurants, say goodbye to friends, and the like—no one wants to be pulling all-nighters taping boxes.

Not Packing Boxes According to Room

On a related note, be sure that when you're packing up your home, you're sorting items by room—all of your living room decor should stick together and not be mixed in with dining room accessories, for example.

"It's easy to think of packing boxes full of like items, but this can potentially lead to confusion and clutter when unpacking," Amanda Wiss, the founder of home organizing company Urban Clarity, says.

This tactic may also help to prevent boxes from becoming overly heavy—for example, you can place pillows in boxes alongside coffee table books and trinkets, Wiss notes.

Not Labeling Your Boxes



Take the extra few seconds to label each of your moving boxes as you pack up the house—it'll be well worth the effort.

Wiss explains how not labeling boxes and being vague can cost you time in the long run, so taking the time to thoroughly label things whether you use masking tape and a marker or a label maker will help you find things when needed.

Taking this step will also be helpful for your movers, who will easily know where to place each box they bring inside the house, Wiss adds.

"Specific labeling helps you prioritize your unpack and avoid a mountain of 'not-ready-for-that-yet' items," Wiss says.

Not Decluttering Before You Move

Moving is expensive and time consuming as it is—so make sure you're only bringing with you the items that you truly wish to hold onto and leaving behind anything that no longer suits you. Elazazzy encourages people to take some time to declutter before packing those moving boxes to make the process more streamlined.

Not Getting the Right Mover's Insurance

If your movers are transporting your belongings, note that you will want to ensure you're getting the right type—and amount of—mover's insurance, Wiss shares.

"Especially if you are moving items of great value, like art and family heirlooms, it can be a great idea to buy additional insurance to protect these items from loss, damage, and theft," she says. Wiss recommends purchasing additional insurance to cover your bases here.

"Minimally, most movers are insured per pound per item, which means a damaged piece of art that weighs two pounds may only return about 30 cents per pound if you make a claim for damage during transport," she says. "That's less than a dollar in return for what likely cost you more—a lot more."

6. How can you ease the stress of moving during the final days?



September is around the corner. Maybe you've taken on a new job. Maybe you're moving across the country for university. Or perhaps you're taking a long, soulful trip and placing your belongings in storage for the fall.

Moving is often a challenge. It requires preparation, money, and it often forces you to make tough decisions. It can be a real psychological test. How can you purposefully tackle moving without stress and anxiety?

I just went through a major move myself, having relocated from Glasgow (UK) to Madison (USA) to take up a new position. And during my adult years, I've jumped back and forth between Canada, the United States, and the United Kingdom.

It hasn't always been easy. So the five ideas here spring from personal experience, research, and observations!

Downsizing.

Purge. Declutter. Rationalize. However you want to put it, start this process early. It's a crucial strategy and it simply involves sifting and sorting through your belongings.

Clutter can be stressful. And it helps to eliminate unnecessary items. It just makes sense to clear the junk from your home by organizing things. Try three piles: Sell, donate, and toss. When I moved to the U.S., I started to organize two months before my flight. I sold my TV, beds, dressers, and BBQ. And I donated and binned the rest. There's a certain amount of anxiety built into this process of downsizing but it can also feel extremely liberating.

Support Network and Pride

Look, sometimes it's not easy asking for a favor. Don't forget, though, that 99% of people have experienced a move. So, part of taking the pressure out of the moving equation is recognizing that people will either help you – or they won't. Simple, right? Ask for help. You'll probably get an affirmative.

Use your network of friends or family and have them either pitch in or provide advice. It's not productive to be overly prideful about inquiring about help. Just bite the bullet.

Recently, I leaned on a couple of brawny friends for their muscles; at the same time, I used my colleagues at work (who knew the city better) to figure out how best to unload big-ticket items. Because I had a bit of a budget to work with, I also hired some tough-looking movers.

Get the Ball Rolling

Don't delay. Make a plan. Sketch out a list. And start crossing items off that list. Procrastination is the enemy of your present and future self. Basically, find that moving "mindset."

Of course, you got the ball moving when you started to downsize. Now it gets slightly more serious. Look into potential movers and rental vehicles. Gather a few estimates. Work at this slowly and steadily.

And how do you do that, exactly?

Time: Block off Time

How can I balance work and your move? A personal life? It's not a simple task.

OK, time management matters. As I said above, start by downsizing. You'll need to set aside a specific (and untouchable) amount of time where you can focus on your move.

Hire someone to mind your children. Skip your daily allowance of Netflix. Clear your schedule on the bank holiday. Do what you have to do to carve out space. You'll accomplish more by packing continuously for several hours than you will by packing in short bursts of time.

Time II: Watch the Clock like a Hawk



Nothing is more stressful than knowing that you can only start moving into your new home at 8 a.m., but you need to be out of your apartment at 12:00 noon that same day.

Avoid this situation by building yourself ample time to make the transition. Yes, this means you may need to pay “double rent” or “double mortgages” for two weeks to one month. But this will allow you the benefit of time — and that can decrease your stress level.

In addition, create mini-deadlines for yourself. Promise yourself that you'll pack up one room per day, for example, or that you'll unpack for two hours each night after you move into your new home. This will prevent you from lingering in limbo for too long.

Over the past three years, I've made some life-changing moves as I bounced from Canada to the UK and USA. During that time, I was teaching and writing at universities – as well as trying to finish up large and small projects.

Bottom Line

Moving, whether across cities or countries, is a significant life change that requires careful planning and organization. From packing efficiently to handling logistics, every step plays a crucial role in ensuring a smooth transition. Over the years, many have navigated challenging relocations by following structured plans, staying adaptable, and seeking help when needed.

A well-prepared approach not only reduces stress but also makes the journey more manageable. Most importantly, appreciate the support from those who lend a hand, as moving is rarely a solo effort. By applying practical strategies and staying organized, you can turn any big move into a positive experience.

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