



Moving Survival Guide

At LifeStorage, we are here to help make your move less stressful. Here is an easy to follow guide to help you with your move. Organizing and preparing weeks ahead of your move will reduce your stress, and it will decrease your chances of overlooking important items.

60 Days Before Moving: (This is a great time to begin the details of your move!)

- Make a list of items you plan on moving to your new home and items you wish to take to storage. Make a list of items to be handled by the mover and those you will handle yourself. Dispose of the items that you do not need and consider a garage sale if you have time, or drop off usable used items at your local thrift shop or church.
- Get estimates from several moving companies.
- Research and select a professional moving company. After selecting your mover, discuss costs, packing, timing and other necessary details.
- Many moving expenses are deductible. So, maintain a file with important information and receipts for moving related expenses. If you're being transferred by work make sure you understand your company's moving policy.
- If moving to a new community, find out about the schools, parks, recreation, and community programs from the local Chamber of Commerce or Visitor's Bureau. Notify new and old schools and arrange for transfer of school records. Begin the process of registering in new schools.
- Transfer medical, property, fire and auto insurance through your insurance agent. Make sure you're covered while in transit.
- Place all your medical records in a safe place. Do not forget prescriptions, vaccinations, and pet records as well as any other important information.
- Obtain an IRS Change of Address form by calling (800) 829-1040 or visiting www.irs.gov You will need the form number 8822.

30 Days Before Moving:

- If you are planning to do some of the packing, start collecting moving and packing supplies. Moving supplies are available for purchase at all LifeStorage Center facilities. Go to www.lifestorage.net to find the location nearest you.
- If necessary, reserve a storage unit. LifeStorage Centers offers easy online reservations, go to www.lifestorage.net to find the location that will suit your needs.
- Contact the post office and fill out a US Postal Change of Address form. You can also visit www.usps.com to obtain this form. Provide your new address to your telephone company, trash company, cable / satellite, water, electric company, internet provider, insurance companies, banks and credit card companies, clubs, local government agencies, magazine subscribers, and any other utility companies.



- Check the requirements for new driver's license and complete auto registration at your new department of motor vehicle location.
- Contact utility companies - electricity, gas, phone and others for disconnection after your scheduled move out. And call ahead to have utilities connected to your new home.
- Let your service providers (landscapers, cleaning services, etc.) know that you're moving. Start looking for the service providers in your new area.
- Try to involve kids in the moving process by assigning them a task. Encourage them to make an address book of their friends so they can keep in touch with them after the move.
- If you have pets make arrangements for transportation. Find out if there are specific requirements for pet ownership in your new township. Also obtain their veterinarian records.

14 Days Before Moving:

- If you have young children, you might want to arrange for a babysitter on moving day to ensure they remain safe during the loading process.
- Remember to return library books and anything you have borrowed. Also, collect items you have loaned to friends.
- Organize the important documents such as wills, passports, deeds, financial statements. You may NOT want to pack them in the moving van, think about taking them with you.
- Find pharmacies in your new town that you can transfer your prescriptions over to. If you or your family member is on daily prescription medicine make sure you have enough required medication to last until you find a new pharmacist/doctor.
- Plants - some state laws do not allow moving house plants. Plants could be given to friends or perhaps a local school or charity.
- If you are going to travel by car, you may want to get the automobile serviced prior to your departure.
- Start packing items you don't currently need. If renting a storage unit, determine which items go to storage and which items go to your new home. Make sure you label the boxes 'storage' and 'home' with permanent black marker to help ensure they go to the right place.
- Don't forget anything in basements, attics, and closets. Don't forget about clearing out safety deposit boxes.
- Disassemble your computer and back up important computer files. Avoid exposure to extreme temperatures.
- Dispose of inflammable items like fireworks, cleaning fluids, matches, acids, chemistry sets and other hazardous items.



1 Week Before Moving:

- Make sure your items are labeled: 'fragile', 'Load first', 'Load last', and 'Do not load'. This is important to ensure the safety of your items.
- Ensure that your moving company knows the correct address and phone number of your new home. If possible, also provide them with an address and phone number to get in touch with you until you get to your new home.
- Open a new bank account but don't close the old one until you move. If you bank online make sure you update your address for statement delivery.
- Get together all keys, alarm codes and garage door openers so you can hand them over to the new owners or real estate agent.
- It is important to empty, defrost and clean your refrigerator at least one day before moving. Think about quick and easy meals you can prepare for your family to use up the remaining food in your refrigerator to reduce food waste and also allow you to pack some leftovers or snacks.
- Make plans flexible, and be prepared in case of delays. Confirm travel arrangements and keep items you will need while the rest of your belongings are in transit.
- Put together a "Moving Day Survival Kit" with items you will need during the trip and immediately after you arrive at your new home. In it you may consider:
 - ID/wallet
 - Checkbook and/or debit cards
 - Closing documents if you're buying a new home
 - Important files & medical records
 - Bottled water
 - Toothbrush & toothpaste
 - Soap
 - Toilet paper
 - Prescription medicines
 - First aid kit
 - Snacks that do not require refrigeration
 - Paper plates, cups & plastic utensils
 - Paper towels
 - Trash bags
 - Bath towels & washcloths
 - Sheets & pillows
 - Scissors & tape
 - Pet food
- Dispose of paint, oil, and weed killers. Drain fuel out of mowers, discard propane tanks from grills. Contact your city for guidance on how to properly dispose of these items. These items should be kept out of our landfills, so please research where you should take them for proper disposal.



Moving Day:

- Thoroughly check your closets, drawers, shelves, attic, and garage to make sure nothing is left.
- Turn off all light switches and lock all doors and windows.
- Be around throughout the loading process. Inspect the premises and see to it that nothing is left behind.
- There must be someone to direct the movers. The driver must have in writing your name and phone number. Also, remember to take destination agent's name, address and contact number.
- Be patient if you reach your new home before your mover.
- Make sure you read the Bill of Lading before you sign it, and make sure your new address and phone number are correct.

Move-In Day And After:

- While unloading, make sure there is no damage and no item is missing. Get your kids involved in the unpacking process.
- Make sure utilities are connected.
- Make sure you have fire extinguishers and smoke detectors in your new home.
- Plan for placement of major items in your home.
- If moving to a new state, you will need to renew your driver's license and revise your will and other legal papers.
- Locate the hospitals, police stations, and fire stations – get to know your new town.
- Consider getting your locks replaced.
- Start thinking about the larger and smaller home renovation projects you'd like to complete and prioritize them.

Enjoy your new home & community!

And remember, when it comes to moving and finding the right place for your stuff, LifeStorage is always here with helpful tips and solutions to store your items and keep them in a climate-controlled storage unit you can feel good about!

