FREE MOVING & PACKING RESOURCE

The Ultimate Moving Checklist

A complete step-by-step moving checklist to help you plan, declutter, pack, protect your belongings, handle moving day, and settle into your new home without forgetting the details.

8-week timeline	Moving supply checklist	Moving day plan

How to use this moving checklist

Moving becomes much easier when you stop treating it as one giant task. Use this guide as a master moving checklist and work through it in stages. The timeline begins eight weeks before moving day and gradually moves from planning and decluttering to packing, final preparation, moving day, and your first days in the new home.

For a local move in Toronto, Brampton, Mississauga, or elsewhere in the GTA, also check the rules of your building, condo, landlord, property manager, municipality, and moving company.

STEP-BY-STEP PLAN

8-Week Moving Checklist

01 8 WEEKS BEFORE MOVING DAY

Plan the move before you pack

[ ] Confirm your moving date, closing date, lease end date, or possession date. Keep the exact date in one place and share it with everyone involved.

[ ] Create a realistic moving budget that includes movers or truck rental, moving supplies, storage, cleaning, utility deposits, elevator fees, parking costs, meals, and unexpected expenses.

[ ] Decide whether you are hiring professional movers, renting a truck, using a van, or asking friends and family for help.

[ ] Get moving quotes early if you are using professional movers. Confirm what is included and ask about stairs, elevators, long carries, oversized furniture, packing services, and additional charges.

[ ] Check whether your condo, apartment, building, or new residence requires an elevator reservation or loading-dock booking.

[ ] Start a complete inventory of the items you are moving. Photograph valuable or delicate items before packing them.

[ ] Begin decluttering. Separate items into keep, donate, sell, recycle, dispose, and storage categories.

[ ] Measure large furniture and compare those measurements with doorways, hallways, stairways, elevators, and the available space in your new home.

[ ] Create a folder for important moving documents, quotes, contracts, receipts, utility confirmations, lease or closing documents, and contact information.

[ ] Choose a simple box-labeling system. A practical system is room name + box number + basic contents.

[ ] Estimate the types of packing supplies you will need. Start with moving boxes, packing tape, packing paper, bubble wrap, labels, stretch wrap, and furniture protection.

[ ] Review Packwiz moving boxes, including standard boxes and wardrobe boxes, so you can choose sizes based on what you actually need to pack.

[ ] Make a list of services that will need your new address, including banks, insurance providers, employers, subscriptions, delivery services, government accounts, schools, doctors, and other important organizations.

[ ] Start researching your utility transfer or setup requirements for electricity, gas, water, internet, and other services.

02 6 WEEKS BEFORE MOVING DAY

Start packing the things you rarely use

[ ] Order or collect your main moving supplies so you are not buying everything during the final week.

[ ] Start packing items you rarely use, such as seasonal decorations, spare bedding, collectibles, books you are not currently reading, and specialty equipment.

[ ] Pack one room or category at a time instead of randomly filling boxes throughout the home.

[ ] Use smaller boxes for dense, heavy items such as books and larger boxes for lighter bulky items such as pillows, linens, and soft goods.

[ ] Wrap fragile items individually where appropriate and fill empty space inside boxes so items cannot move freely during transport.

[ ] Use packing paper or bubble wrap for fragile household items such as dishes, glassware, ceramics, electronics, and decorative objects.

[ ] Create a simple numbering system and record what is inside each numbered box.

[ ] Label boxes on at least two sides so the room can be identified even when boxes are stacked.

[ ] Mark fragile boxes clearly. Do not rely on a fragile sticker alone; pack the contents properly as the primary protection.

[ ] Separate important documents, jewelry, cash, passports, IDs, medications, and irreplaceable personal items from the general household load.

[ ] Back up important digital files before the move, especially documents, family photos, business files, and other irreplaceable information.

[ ] Arrange donation pickups, recycling, junk removal, or disposal for items you are not taking with you.

[ ] If you have children or pets, start planning how they will be kept safe and away from moving traffic on moving day.

03 4 WEEKS BEFORE MOVING DAY

Build momentum and protect your belongings

[ ] Pack most decorative items, artwork, spare dishes, books, seasonal clothing, collections, and other non-essential items.

[ ] Begin packing rooms that are used less often before tackling everyday essentials.

[ ] Photograph the connections and cable layouts behind televisions, computers, routers, and other electronics before disconnecting them.

[ ] Label electronic cables, chargers, adapters, remotes, and accessories so they stay with the correct equipment.

[ ] Use protective wrapping on furniture that may rub, scratch, or shift during transport.

[ ] Use stretch wrap to secure drawers, doors, protective padding, or bundled items where appropriate. Do not wrap delicate surfaces directly without suitable protection underneath.

[ ] Protect mattresses during transport with a mattress protection bag.

[ ] Start using up freezer food and reduce the amount of food that will need to be transported.

[ ] Confirm your mover, truck, rental equipment, storage unit, elevator booking, and any building access requirements.

[ ] Create a rough layout for the new home so boxes can be directed to their destination rooms instead of being dropped randomly.

[ ] Start changing your address for important accounts and subscriptions.

[ ] Arrange for mail forwarding or other address-change services that apply to your situation.

[ ] Set aside cleaning supplies for both the old property and the new property.

04 3 WEEKS BEFORE MOVING DAY

Pack deeper into the home

[ ] Pack additional kitchen items that are not used every day.

[ ] Pack most remaining books, decorative objects, spare linens, and non-essential furniture accessories.

[ ] Sort and label tools, hardware, screws, brackets, remotes, and furniture parts. Keep small hardware in labelled bags.

[ ] Create a dedicated box or container for basic tools you will need during the move.

[ ] Create a household inventory that identifies particularly valuable, fragile, or difficult-to-replace items.

[ ] Confirm how keys, garage remotes, access cards, parking passes, mailbox keys, and building fobs will be transferred.

[ ] Confirm the exact delivery address, unit number, postal code, parking instructions, entrance, and loading area with anyone helping with the move.

[ ] Check the weather forecast closer to moving day and prepare appropriate protection for rain, snow, wind, or extreme temperatures.

[ ] If you are moving within a condo or apartment building, reconfirm the elevator booking and building rules.

05 2 WEEKS BEFORE MOVING DAY

Move from preparation into final packing

[ ] Aim to have most of the home packed except everyday essentials.

[ ] Finish packing rarely used clothing and reduce the number of items left in closets.

[ ] Start preparing your essentials box. It should travel with you rather than disappear into the moving truck.

[ ] Create a separate personal bag with IDs, wallet, keys, medications, chargers, basic toiletries, a change of clothes, and important documents.

[ ] Continue using up refrigerated and frozen food where practical.

[ ] Confirm utility connection and disconnection dates.

[ ] Confirm the mover or truck reservation and verify arrival time and contact information.

[ ] Confirm parking or loading arrangements at both properties.

[ ] Check that furniture, appliances, and oversized items can physically leave the old property and enter the new one.

[ ] Wash or clean items that you do not want to transport dirty, especially removable bins, shelves, and storage containers.

[ ] Create a basic cleaning kit for the final clean at your old home and the first clean at your new home.

06 1 WEEK BEFORE MOVING DAY

Finish most of the packing

[ ] Finish packing the majority of your belongings.

[ ] Clearly label every box with its destination room.

[ ] Write a short description of the most important contents on each box.

[ ] Create an essentials box containing toiletries, toilet paper, paper towels, basic dishes or cutlery, snacks, chargers, medications, cleaning supplies, basic tools, and anything needed for the first night.

[ ] Keep your important documents, valuables, keys, wallet, medications, and irreplaceable items with you.

[ ] Finish disassembling furniture that needs to be taken apart for transport.

[ ] Place screws and small hardware in labeled bags and attach them to the corresponding furniture whenever practical.

[ ] Use moving blankets, furniture pads, or other protective materials for furniture that could be scratched or damaged during handling.

[ ] Use packing tape to securely seal completed moving boxes.

[ ] Use reliable packing tape for sealing boxes, especially heavier boxes and boxes that will be stacked.

[ ] Finish using or removing food from the freezer and plan how refrigerated food will be handled.

[ ] Arrange pet care or childcare if the move creates a safety problem.

[ ] Charge phones, battery packs, tablets, laptops, and other devices you may need during the move.

07 THE DAY BEFORE

Prepare for a smooth moving morning

[ ] Finish all remaining packing except items that must be used on moving day.

[ ] Clean and dry the refrigerator and freezer according to the appliance manufacturer's instructions. If defrosting is required, allow enough time for it before transport.

[ ] Pack your essentials bag and keep it separate from the boxes going onto the truck.

[ ] Keep your keys, wallet, identification, important documents, medications, phone, chargers, and other critical personal items with you.

[ ] Prepare water, simple snacks, and anything needed during the move.

[ ] Walk through every room and confirm that drawers, closets, cabinets, shelves, attic spaces, garages, balconies, and storage areas have been checked.

[ ] Make sure boxes are sealed and clearly labeled.

[ ] Clear paths between packed boxes and the main exit.

[ ] Protect floors or high-traffic areas when appropriate, especially during wet or snowy weather.

[ ] Take photos of the condition of the property before the final move if you are renting, selling, or handing over the property.

[ ] Keep cleaning supplies accessible for the final cleaning.

[ ] Confirm the mover's arrival time and have your phone available for communication.

08 FIRST 24 HOURS

Set up the essentials first

[ ] Set up beds first so you have a comfortable place to sleep even if the rest of the home is still packed.

[ ] Set up basic bathroom supplies and toiletries.

[ ] Make sure the refrigerator and freezer are operating correctly before restocking them.

[ ] Confirm electricity, water, heating or cooling, internet, and other essential utilities are functioning.

[ ] Check that exterior and interior doors lock properly.

[ ] Locate the electrical panel, water shutoff, heating controls, and other basic home systems.

[ ] Check smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms and follow the manufacturer's guidance for testing and maintenance.

[ ] Unpack medications, important documents, chargers, toiletries, and everyday essentials.

[ ] Set up a basic kitchen area so you can prepare food and drinks.

[ ] Open and inspect high-value or fragile items first so any damage can be identified promptly.

[ ] Keep your box inventory while unpacking so missing items can be identified.

[ ] Break down and recycle cardboard boxes as they become empty, while keeping some boxes available for organizing and returns.

[ ] Do not try to unpack the entire home in one day. Prioritize sleeping, hygiene, food, work or school requirements, and essential rooms.

09 AFTER THE MOVE

Finish the move without creating another mess

[ ] Update your address with any remaining organizations, subscriptions, financial institutions, insurance providers, employers, schools, and service providers.

[ ] Keep receipts, moving contracts, delivery records, and photographs related to the move in one place until you no longer need them.

[ ] Inspect furniture and major items carefully after they have been unpacked.

[ ] Separate damaged packaging or products from items that arrived in good condition.

[ ] Recycle clean cardboard and reusable packing material according to your local municipality's guidelines.

[ ] Donate or responsibly dispose of unwanted items rather than storing things you already decided not to keep.

[ ] Organize one room at a time rather than opening every box simultaneously.

[ ] Label any boxes that go into long-term storage so you can find their contents later.

[ ] Keep a small supply of useful moving materials for future storage, shipping, or organization.

[ ] Once the move is complete, save your moving checklist and inventory for future reference.

MOVING DAY

Moving Day Checklist

Keep important items accessible, keep the move organized, protect the property, and make sure nothing is accidentally left behind.

01 Before loading

[ ] Keep your essentials bag and important personal items with you.

[ ] Walk through every room before the truck is loaded.

[ ] Confirm which furniture and boxes are moving.

[ ] Photograph valuable or delicate items before loading.

[ ] Make sure all moving boxes are closed and labeled.

[ ] Protect floors and high-traffic areas when appropriate.

02 During loading

[ ] Keep fragile and valuable items clearly identified.

[ ] Track important boxes using your inventory.

[ ] Communicate oversized or difficult items to the movers.

[ ] Keep personal documents, medication and valuables with you.

[ ] Make sure the loading area remains clear and safe.

03 Final walk-through

[ ] Check closets, cabinets and drawers.

[ ] Check garages, balconies, basements and storage areas.

[ ] Check behind doors and inside utility spaces.

[ ] Confirm appliances and fixtures that are supposed to remain.

[ ] Record relevant meter readings or property-condition photos.

[ ] Return or collect keys, remotes and access cards as required.

04 At the new home

[ ] Identify each room before unloading begins.

[ ] Direct boxes into their destination rooms.

[ ] Set up beds and bathroom essentials first.

[ ] Keep your essentials bag accessible.

[ ] Inspect furniture and high-value items for visible damage.

[ ] Confirm you have all keys and access information.

PACKING SUPPLIES

Moving Supplies Checklist

The exact amount of supplies depends on the size of your home, how much you own, how fragile your belongings are, and whether you are packing everything yourself.

[ ] Moving boxes - choose a mixture of sizes based on your belongings.

[ ] Wardrobe boxes for suitable hanging clothing.

[ ] Packing tape for sealing boxes securely.

[ ] Packing paper for wrapping and cushioning fragile household items.

[ ] Bubble wrap for additional cushioning around fragile items.

[ ] Stretch wrap for securing protective padding, bundling certain items, or keeping drawers and doors closed where appropriate.

[ ] Moving blankets or furniture pads for protecting furniture and other surfaces.

[ ] Mattress bags for protecting mattresses from dirt and moisture during transport or temporary storage.

[ ] Writable labels or permanent markers for identifying box contents and destination rooms.

[ ] Scissors and box cutters for opening packaging. Store cutting tools safely.

[ ] Zip-top bags or small containers for screws, bolts, remotes, keys, and furniture hardware.

[ ] Basic tools such as a screwdriver, wrench, tape measure, and utility knife.

[ ] Garbage bags for waste, donations, linens, and items that require temporary separation.

[ ] Cleaning supplies for final cleaning and first-day cleaning.

[ ] Gloves and suitable protective equipment for heavy or dirty items.

[ ] Floor protection or runners when moving through finished floors in wet, snowy, or high-traffic conditions.

Choosing the Right Moving Box

SMALL - Dense & heavy items

Books, canned goods, small appliances, tools, documents and smaller household items.

MEDIUM - Everyday household items

Kitchenware, shoes, clothing, electronics, decorations and mixed household items.

LARGE - Lightweight bulky items

Pillows, blankets, linens and other lightweight items that take up more space without adding excessive weight.

WARDROBE - Hanging clothes

Use wardrobe boxes for suitable hanging clothing so it can move from the closet into the box with less folding and sorting.

TORONTO & GTA

GTA Condo & Apartment Moving Checklist

Moving in Toronto, Brampton, Mississauga or another GTA community can involve building rules that do not apply to a detached-home move. Check the specific requirements of your building and municipality before moving day.

[ ] Confirm the building's moving hours. Some condos and apartments allow moves only during specific time windows.

[ ] Reserve the elevator or loading dock as early as the building requires.

[ ] Ask the building management or concierge about move-in and move-out procedures.

[ ] Confirm where the moving truck can legally and safely stop for loading and unloading.

[ ] Check whether temporary parking, loading, or street-use permissions apply to your location. Requirements vary by municipality and property.

[ ] Measure elevator doors, hallways, stairwells, doorways, and tight turns for oversized furniture.

[ ] Tell movers about underground parking heights, loading docks, stairs, long carries, or restricted entrances before moving day.

[ ] For winter moves, have suitable floor protection and plan for wet or snowy entryways.

[ ] Keep building access cards, elevator keys, parking passes, and concierge instructions accessible.

[ ] For a Toronto or GTA move, verify the exact property rules rather than assuming every building follows the same procedure.

What Not to Put in Your Moving Boxes

[ ] Identification and important documents

[ ] Keys, access cards and important remotes

[ ] Wallet, cash and financial items

[ ] Prescription or essential medications

[ ] Phone, laptop and important chargers

[ ] Jewelry and irreplaceable valuables

[ ] Essential toiletries and a change of clothes

[ ] Important family, business or legal records

[ ] Your first-night essentials

> Important: Moving companies and transportation providers may restrict certain hazardous, flammable, pressurized, or otherwise restricted materials. Always check the specific rules of your mover or vehicle provider before packing those items.

QUICK ANSWERS

Moving Checklist FAQ

When should I start packing for a move?

A practical starting point for many household moves is about 6-8 weeks before moving day. Start by planning, decluttering, arranging movers, and gathering supplies. Pack rarely used items first, then gradually move toward everyday essentials as moving day approaches.

What should I pack first when moving?

Start with items you rarely use, including seasonal clothing, decorations, books you do not currently need, collections, spare linens, and specialty equipment. Leave everyday essentials for later so you can continue living normally while packing.

What should I pack last before moving day?

Pack the items you will need until the final hours last. This normally includes everyday toiletries, basic clothing, chargers, medications, basic kitchen items, cleaning supplies, tools, and bedding. Keep important documents and valuables with you rather than putting them into general moving boxes.

How many moving boxes do I need?

There is no single box count that fits every move because the amount depends on the home size, storage space, number of occupants, lifestyle, and amount of belongings. A better approach is to inventory each room, estimate by category, start with mixed box sizes, and adjust as packing progresses.

What moving supplies do I actually need?

Most household moves benefit from moving boxes, packing tape, packing paper, bubble wrap or another suitable cushioning material, labels or markers, stretch wrap, furniture protection such as moving blankets, and mattress protection.

How do I pack fragile items safely?

Wrap fragile items individually where appropriate, cushion the bottom and sides of the box, separate items with suitable protective material, fill empty spaces, and avoid making fragile boxes unnecessarily heavy. Clearly label the box, but rely on proper packaging - not the label alone - to protect the contents.

What should stay with me during a move?

Keep identification, keys, wallet, medications, important documents, valuables, chargers, phones, critical electronics, and irreplaceable personal items with you whenever practical. You should also keep your essentials bag accessible throughout moving day.

How should I label moving boxes?

Label boxes with the destination room, a short description of the contents, and optionally a box number. Label at least two sides so the destination remains visible when boxes are stacked.

Do I need different moving boxes for different items?

Using different box sizes can make packing and carrying more manageable. Small and medium boxes are useful for dense items, while larger boxes are generally better suited to lightweight bulky belongings. Wardrobe boxes are designed for suitable hanging clothing.

What should I do with my mattress during a move?

Protect the mattress from dirt, moisture, and handling damage with an appropriately sized mattress protection bag. Keep the mattress dry and follow the manufacturer's or mover's handling guidance.

What should I do on moving day?

Keep essentials and valuables with you, complete a final walk-through, direct boxes to their destination rooms, track important items, take photos when appropriate, and verify keys and access information. At the new home, prioritize beds, bathroom essentials, basic food, and utilities before tackling the rest of the boxes.

Get Your Moving Supplies Ready

From moving boxes and packing tape to bubble wrap, packing paper, mattress protection and other moving essentials, Packwiz helps make your next move easier to organize.

Visit packwiz.ca