



8 WEEKS OUT · THE BOXES · MOVING DAY · LANDING

Moving Planner.

The countdown, the budget, the box system, and the address-change list nobody finishes — a move run like a project instead of a panic.

MOVING TO _____

MOVE DATE _____

A move is 300 small tasks pretending to be one big one.

Nobody is bad at moving — people are bad at doing 300 things in the same two weeks they saved them all for. Spread across eight weeks with a countdown, the same move is a series of small errands. This planner is that spread: what happens at 8 weeks, 4 weeks, 2 weeks, moving week, and the month after.

Start wherever your countdown already is — even “we move Saturday” has a page. The box system and address-change registry work at any distance, studio to farmhouse.

FOUR PARTS

§1	The countdown	Week-by-week from 8 weeks out. p. 3–7
§2	The logistics	Budget, movers vs. DIY, and the box system. p. 8–11
§3	The big day	The essentials box, the day-of run sheet, the walk-throughs. p. 12–13
§4	The landing	Address changes, utilities, and actually settling in. p. 14–16

PART ONE

The countdown.

Eight weeks, five checkpoints. Everything on these pages is easier the week it's listed and harder every week after.

8 weeks out — decisions.

The expensive week: everything here saves money if done now and costs money if done late.

- ☐ Move date chosen (mid-month, mid-week is cheapest; month-end costs the most)
- ☐ Movers vs. DIY decided (p.9) — quotes requested from THREE companies if hiring
- ☐ Landlord notified in writing (check your lease's notice period — usually 30–60 days) / closing timeline confirmed
- ☐ Time off work requested — moving day plus one
- ☐ New place: lease signed, deposit paid, move-in date and key handoff in writing
- ☐ If employer-related: relocation benefits asked about NOW (many reimburse; all have deadlines)
- ☐ The purge begun — one room per weekend: sell, donate, toss. Every box not moved is money saved

QUOTES LOG — COMPANY, DATE, PRICE, WHAT'S INCLUDED, GUT FEEL

OUR MOVE-DAY + MOVER DECISION, LOCKED

4 weeks out — supplies and notices.

The week the move becomes real to everyone else.

- ☐ Boxes, tape, markers, bubble wrap acquired (free boxes: liquor stores, grocery stores, neighborhood groups)
- ☐ Packing begun: off-season and rarely-used first (holiday stuff, books, the guest room)
- ☐ Utilities scheduled: stop at old place, start at new — INTERNET FIRST, installers book 2–3 weeks out
- ☐ School / daycare records transfer started if kids
- ☐ Vet records + any pet travel plan if pets
- ☐ Medical prescriptions: 90-day fills requested so nothing runs out mid-move
- ☐ Mail forwarding scheduled at usps.com (takes effect on a date you pick — set it for move day)
- ☐ Fridge/pantry eat-down begun — the freezer is a to-do list now

WHO'S HELPING ON MOVE DAY — ASKED THIS WEEK, WITH THE DATE (HELPERS BOOK UP TOO)

BOXES PACKED SO FAR: ____ · ROOMS DONE: ____

2 weeks out — the heavy packing.

Everything but daily life goes in boxes now. The house gets uncomfortable; that's the sign it's working.

- ☐ Everything packed except: kitchen basics, 10 days of clothes, bathroom, kids' comfort items
- ☐ Mover confirmed in writing — time, address, contact, what they won't take (propane, plants, valuables)
- ☐ Truck reserved if DIY (confirm size — see p.9 — and the furniture dolly)
- ☐ Fridge defrost planned (24–48h before if it's coming along)
- ☐ Cleaning scheduled: DIY day or cleaner booked for after the truck leaves (deposits ride on this)
- ☐ Valuables and documents set aside — they travel with YOU, never in the truck: passports, jewelry, laptops, the Emergency Binder
- ☐ Furniture measured vs. new doorways/stairs (the couch that doesn't fit is a classic — know now)
- ☐ Parking for the truck figured out at BOTH ends (permits in some cities)

THE THING I KEEP POSTPONING — DONE BY (DATE)

Move week — the final sweep.

Short list, sharp edges.

- ☐ Essentials boxes packed (p.12) — one per person + one for the house
- ☐ Last laundry run; linens packed except move-night bedding
- ☐ Cash for tips (movers: \$20–50/person for a solid day) and the pizza budget for helpers
- ☐ Phone chargers, meds, chargers again — in the essentials box, not the truck
- ☐ Old place: photograph every room AFTER it's empty and clean (deposit evidence)
- ☐ New place BEFORE boxes: photograph existing damage, test smoke detectors, locate the breaker panel and water shutoff (start the Home Management Binder right)
- ☐ Keys: collect all old-place copies from friends/neighbors; get new-place copies made
- ☐ Trash/recycling emptied, perishables gifted to a neighbor, plants watered and staged

MOVE-DAY RUN SHEET REVIEWED TOGETHER (P.13) — THE NIGHT BEFORE

PART TWO

The logistics.

Money and boxes — the two systems that decide whether the move is a project or a disaster documentary.

The budget — and movers vs. DIY.

Moves cost more than the truck. Price the whole thing once, honestly.

LINE ITEM	ESTIMATE	ACTUAL
Movers or truck rental + fuel		
Boxes & supplies		
Deposits (rent, utilities, pet)		
Overlap rent / hotel nights		
Cleaning (old place)		
Immediate new-place needs (shower curtain economy)		
Tips + helper food		
Time off work (unpaid days?)		

THE MOVERS-VS-DIY HONEST MATH

- **DIY wins** under ~1 bedroom of stuff, strong friends, short distance. Truck sizes: studio = 10ft, 1BR = 15ft, 2BR = 20ft, 3BR+ = 26ft — round UP; two trips erase the savings.
- **Movers win** for stairs, pianos, long distance, bad backs, or any move where your time that week is worth more than the difference. Get the quote IN WRITING with an inventory; “estimates” that double on the day are the industry’s oldest trick.
- **Hybrid:** you pack, they haul — often the sweet spot.

TOTAL BUDGET: \$ _____ · THE LINE MOST LIKELY TO BLOW UP

Future-you unpacks. Present-you decides whether future-you cries.

- **Label three things** on two sides: destination ROOM at the new place, one-line contents, and a priority (1 = first week, 2 = first month, 3 = whenever).
- **Number every box** and keep the master list (below). “Is the blender here?” becomes a lookup, and a missing box becomes provable to the movers.
- Heavy things, small boxes. Light things, big boxes. Books are the classic violation.
- One room per box — mixed boxes unpack into chaos.
- **Open-first boxes get bright tape** — a color no other box wears.

THE ADULTING VAULT

The purge — move less, land lighter.

Professional movers price by weight and time; your back prices by trips. The cheapest box is the one that doesn't exist.

SELL — WORTH REAL MONEY, LISTED THIS WEEK (FURNITURE THAT WON'T FIT, THE EXERCISE EQUIPMENT OF INTENTIONS PAST)

DONATE — PICKUP SCHEDULED OR DROP-OFF DATED (MANY CHARITIES COLLECT FURNITURE FREE)

TOSS / RECYCLE — INCLUDING THE PAINT CANS, DEAD ELECTRONICS, AND MYSTERY CABLES (CHECK HAZARDOUS-WASTE DAYS)

THE KEEP TEST, FOR ANYTHING ON THE FENCE

"Would I pay \$2 a pound to move this?" — because roughly, you're about to. Haven't used it in a year and it isn't sentimental or seasonal? It had its chance.

PURGE INCOME: \$ _____ · BOXES AVOIDED: _____

The essentials boxes.

The first 24 hours in the new place should not require finding anything. One box per person + one for the house — packed last, unloaded first, bright tape.

PER PERSON

- ☐ 3 days of clothes + pajamas
- ☐ Toiletries, meds, glasses/contacts
- ☐ Phone + charger
- ☐ Towel
- ☐ Comfort item (kids especially)
- ☐ Book / tablet for the first weird night

FOR THE HOUSE

- ☐ Toilet paper + shower curtain + soap
- ☐ Sheets for every bed (first-night beds beat every other unpacking priority)
- ☐ Basic tools, box cutter, flashlight
- ☐ Paper towels, trash bags, all-purpose cleaner
- ☐ Coffee setup / kettle + a few mugs
- ☐ Snacks, water, pet food + bowls
- ☐ The folder: lease, IDs, checkbook, cash

BOXES PACKED AND MARKED WITH THE SACRED TAPE — THE NIGHT BEFORE _____

The move-day run sheet.

One person owns the truck, one owns the house. Kids and pets are stationed with a person or a sitter — a moving day is a terrible playground.

- ☐ Morning: essentials boxes and go-with-me valuables in the CAR, not the truck
- ☐ Movers arrive: walk them through, point out fragiles and don't-takes, confirm the delivery address out loud
- ☐ While loading: one person checks off box numbers against the master list
- ☐ Old place after the truck: empty-room photos, final clean, thermostat set, windows locked, keys handed off / returned per instructions
- ☐ Meter photos at both places (utility disputes die to photos)
- ☐ New place: beds assembled FIRST, essentials boxes opened, shower curtain up
- ☐ Movers finish: count boxes against the list before signing anything; note damage on their paperwork, not just verbally; tip in cash
- ☐ Dinner: the ceremonial pizza on a box table. This is a tradition, not a suggestion.

TRUCK OWNER: _____ · HOUSE OWNER: _____ · KIDS/PETS PLAN: _____

PART FOUR

The landing.

The move ends when the address changes stick and the boxes stop being furniture. Two weeks of small errands, then it's home.

The address-change registry.

Mail forwarding buys you a year of grace — this list is what actually ends the chase. Work from bills and wallet cards; check each off as confirmed.

- ☐ USPS forwarding active (verify with a test)
- ☐ Driver's license / state ID (deadlines are short in many states — often 30 days)
- ☐ Vehicle registration + insurance (rates change by address — sometimes down!)
- ☐ Bank(s), credit cards, investment accounts
- ☐ Employer / payroll / benefits
- ☐ IRS (Form 8822) + state tax agency
- ☐ Health / dental / vision insurance + all doctors + pharmacy
- ☐ Voter registration (fast online in most states)
- ☐ Subscriptions: streaming is fine, but Amazon's default address WILL bite — fix it first
- ☐ Kids' school records finalized · pets' microchip registry updated
- ☐ Family, and the group chat. Someone will still ship to the old place. It's the law of moving.

Actually settling in.

Unpacking makes it furnished. These make it home.

WEEK 1 — THE FUNCTION PASS: KITCHEN FULLY WORKING, BATHROOM DONE, EVERYONE'S CLOTHES FINDABLE, WIFI + SMOKE DETECTORS + LOCKS CHECKED (REKEY OR CHANGE LOCKS — YOU DON'T KNOW WHO HAS COPIES)

WEEK 2-4 — THE LIFE PASS: PICTURES ON ONE WALL (MOMENTUM), THE NEIGHBORHOOD WALKED, GROCERY STORE + PHARMACY + URGENT CARE LOCATED, ONE NEIGHBOR MET ON PURPOSE

THE BOX AMNESTY — ANY BOX UNOPENED AT 60 DAYS GETS OPENED OVER A TRASH BAG OR DONATED SEALED. IF YOU DIDN'T NEED IT IN TWO MONTHS...

THE MOMENT IT FIRST FELT LIKE HOME — DATE IT _____

THE ADULTING VAULT

**Three hundred small tasks,
eight calm weeks,
one ceremonial pizza.**

MOVING PLANNER

EVERYTHING THEY FORGOT TO TELL YOU