

# A Checklist to Simplify Your Move

We get it. Moving is a complicated process, and you have enough to keep track of under everyday circumstances. That's why we made this checklist—to make your life and your move insanely easy. Just check each box as you go, and nothing will be forgotten. Happy moving!

## Before Your Move

- Determine your budget**  
Before you move, you must determine your budget for rent, including the actual cost of moving. Remember to calculate first and last month's rent, along with a security deposit, into your numbers.
- No Renewal**  
The timing of the notice you must give your landlord when you're not renewing can differ depending on your area. Be sure you follow the appropriate timing. It's not only the courteous (and legally required!) thing to do, other landlords might also check references. Why burn bridges?
- Picture What You Want**  
This move is your chance to get your dream place. Figure out whether you want to live in a house, condo, or apartment, and make a list of features you just can't live without.
- Choose a Reputable Service**  
You can do it all yourself—but why would you? If you're looking for apartments, locator services are the way to go. After all, it costs you nothing and you benefit from interacting with professionals who know the properties and the neighborhoods. Home-seekers will want to check out listing sites and realtors. (Keep in mind each realtor's fee is unique, so be sure to discuss with your prospective agent before seeing homes.)
- Narrow Down Your Neighborhoods**  
If you're in the same city or nearby, visit them if you haven't already. If that's not possible or you just want to narrow down the possibilities, find information online.
- Create a Tour List**  
Next, make a list of the places you really want to visit. While you could just use the notes functionality in your phone, we'd recommend [an app like ours](#), which keeps your list at your fingertips at all times and is easy to adjust.
- Decide on a Future Home**  
Once you've found your perfect home, it's time to go through the application process. There's often a fee, but it's sometimes credited back if you are approved. Don't be taken by surprise; ask about costs before you apply. (Psst—some places also run specials, with discounted fees!)

- Sort, Purge, and Donate**

It often takes longer than you think to go through all your belongings and schedule a pickup or transport all the bags to a donation drop-off. Don't forget to get a tax-deductible receipt!
- Investigate Moving Companies**

If you aren't paying your friends with pizza and beer, then it's time to investigate moving companies. But be careful—the moving industry is notorious for scams! However, there are definitely reputable companies, so try to get friends' recommendations, if you can. When you're interviewing movers, ask for an onsite estimate **IN WRITING** and be sure the company gives you a USDOT number, so you can check that they're licensed.
- Mark Your Calendar**

Once you've found a place you love, determine your move date and book your time off work. If applicable, also tell your current super when you'll be moving and give the appropriate move-out deposit.
- Set Up Utilities**

At least two weeks in advance, shop around to set up utilities, like electricity, water, cable (if you haven't cut the cord), and the all-important internet. You'll also want to disconnect utilities at your old place. Check out [RadPad's app](#), which makes comparison-shopping for utilities—and setting them up—as easy as pie.
- Buy Renter's Insurance**

In some states, like Texas, it's required as part of the move-in process, but regardless—this is something you need to have in case something goes wrong. ([RadPad's app](#) makes buying renter's insurance fast and easy.) You'll also need this to get the keys to your new place!
- File Change-of-address Forms**

Don't forget to go online to fill out these forms for the post office, newspaper and magazines (if applicable), and also fill out an IRS change-of-address.
- Transfer Prescriptions**

Refill anything you might need and call to transfer prescriptions to a place in your new neighborhood.
- Moving Binder**

Many moving expenses are tax-deductible, so get organized! Buy a binder to hold receipts and an inventory of everything you're moving. (It's never a bad idea to make a video or take pictures of everything you plan to move.)
- Gather Moving Supplies**

If you're buying boxes and tape, get them well in advance. If you're saving money by collecting empty boxes from a local store, start early so you aren't desperately running from store to store. If your movers are supplying them, arrange a time for drop-off.

- Label Boxes by Room**

This will help tremendously with the unpacking process. Be sure to pack essentials (like toiletries, important kitchen supplies, and cleaning supplies) last. If you have kids and/or pets, make sure any items that will help them adjust (like special toys) are either transported with you or are clearly marked for immediate unpacking. Check out [these packing tips](#) to get inspired.
- Get Your New Keys**

You'll want to have the keys to your new place in hand before your moving day. Otherwise, you might end up wasting valuable move-in time, not to mention, getting charged mover fees.
- Going-away Party**

This is obviously optional, but hey, why wait too long to plan it?
- Pack an Overnight Bag**

Technically, it's more of a "Week Bag," since you should pack all immediate needs for the next seven days, including toiletries, medicine, and sheets.
- Check the Moving Truck**

If applicable, check your moving truck has the same US-DOT# you were given. It sounds crazy, but it's like checking that you're getting into the right Lyft. Scams have been known to happen, and you don't want to hand over your belongings to just anybody in a truck.

## After Your Move

- Unpack and Get Organized**

Don't get discouraged. Unpacking is a process. Remember, your enthusiasm will probably peter out, at least to some degree, so start out strong and use the opportunity to get organized.
- Set up your pet's space**

This one doesn't apply to everyone, but if you do have a pet, make sure you set up a space for it as it's adjusting to your new home. Some treats, toys, and a cozy bed can make the move less traumatic.
- Pay Your Rent Online**

As part of your organizing process, make your own life easier. Why not start out strong by downloading [RadPad's app](#) so you can pay your rent just by pulling out your phone?
- Collect your Move-in Rebate**

Personally, we think this is the best part of moving. If you've worked with certain locator services, like RadPad, you will get money back when you move in.
- Throw a House-warming Party!**

Here's where the rebate can come in especially handy. Once you unpack your blender, you can show off your new place and spring for some margaritas.