

Timely Tips

For A Smooth Family Move

Every family's schedule for a move will be different, of course. But much of the hassle can be taken out of Moving Day by adapting a proven timetable to fit available time. Feel free to shift tasks to suit your special circumstances.

M-Day (Moving Day) Minus Six Weeks

- ✔ Change address at post office (effective on moving day). Keep a list of needed address changes; check off as notified. Change magazines and other computer-addressed mail now.
- ✔ Start a file of vital papers and reminders (an accordion file or three-ring binder with pocket dividers keeps them in their proper categories).
- ✔ Get estimates from moving companies. Plan ahead if moving in peak season of June through September.

M-Day Minus Five Weeks

- ✔ Select moving company, confirm moving date and decide who will pack: professionals or family. Paid packers typically come the day before M-day.
- ✔ Start sorting. Decide what to move, what to sell, give away, discard. Take cuttings or give away extra house plants. Trim down as much as possible before take-off. Be ruthless.
- ✔ Sketch floor plan of new home, decide furniture placement.

TIP

Do you have a lot of books? You can sometimes save money mailing these rather than shipping them by van. Remember to take your old phone books for reference, and get new town directories ASAP.



- ✔ Inventory possessions, with value and year of purchase if possible. Photo or video records are ideal.
- ✔ Start do-it-yourself packing: seldom used dishes, glassware, books, off-season clothes, workshop, garage, garden tools, hobby equipment. Establish staging area for packed cartons in extra room or garage.

M-Day Minus Four Weeks

- ✔ Take care of legal contracts (by self or with the help of an attorney, insurance agent, accountant and/or a relocation advisor). Included:
 - credit cards, bank accounts, charge accounts
 - utilities and telephone services

- memberships in social, athletic and religious organizations; make arrangements to move membership
- insurance: homeowners, automobile, medical, life and disability
 - employment agreements
 - wills, trusts and other legal or financial matters; safe deposit box
 - leased products and services.
- ✔ Make sure employer has new address. Get letters of reference to establish credit in new location.
- ✔ Talk with veterinarian about moving pets; get records. Allow extra time if needed shots require a waiting period in between. Check airplane restrictions.

M-Day Minus Three Weeks

- ✔ Obtain children's medical/dental records, birth certificates and school transcripts. Ask doctors and dentists to recommend colleagues in the new area.
- ✔ Fill prescriptions and get copies from doctors for new doctors, pharmacist or optometrist.
- ✔ Drop off dry cleaning (make a note: remember to pick it up!).
- ✔ Pick up anything being repaired, serviced or on layaway.

M-Day Minus Two Weeks

- ✔ Check address-change list. Everyone notified?
- ✔ Make reservations, have car serviced for the trip. Earlier ticketing can save money, but risks partial loss if changes are needed. Best to provide breathing room.
- ✔ Collect children's games, activities for the trip.
- ✔ Arrange to have major appliances serviced for move, if needed. Check owners' manuals.
- ✔ Do-it-yourselfers should start packing often-used belongings.
- ✔ Plan farewell parties and visits for this week.

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