

Cross-Country Moving Checklist

Your step-by-step guide for a smooth, stress-free move



Moving across the country is exciting but complex. Use this timeline checklist to stay organized, prepare early, and keep stress low from start to finish.

PREPARE

- **Sort & Purge:** Declutter — donate, sell, or toss what you don't need.
- **Set Your Budget:** Plan for movers, transport, packing supplies, and extras.
- **Research Movers:** Compare companies, check reviews, and get onsite quotes.
- **Gather Supplies:** Collect boxes, tape, bubble wrap, and markers.



02 MONTHS BEFORE MOVE



06 WEEKS BEFORE MOVE

PLAN

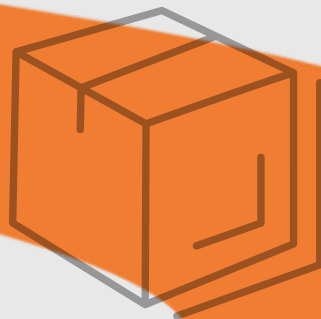
- **Create Your Moving Checklist:** Break down tasks week-by-week.
- **Plan Travel:** Book flights, hotels, or Airbnb if driving with stops.

ORGANIZE

- **Notify Your Landlord:** Check lease terms for notice requirements.
- **Organize & Pack:** Inventory belongings, take photos of valuables.
- **Update Address:** Banks, subscriptions, and USPS mail forwarding.



01 MONTH BEFORE MOVE



03 WEEKS BEFORE MOVE

START PACKING

- **Notify Utilities & Insurance:** Transfer accounts and update coverage.
- **Transfer Records:** Medical, school, and other important files.
- **Pack Non-Essentials:** Save daily-use items for last.

CONFIRM

- **Arrange Care:** Plan pet and childcare on moving day.
- **Confirm Movers:** Reconfirm dates, times, and instructions.
- **Organize Important Documents:** Keep passports, licenses, and papers handy.



02 WEEKS BEFORE MOVE



01 WEEK BEFORE MOVE

FINISH PACKING

- **Finalize Packing:** Pack essentials and disassemble furniture.
- **Handle Perishables:** Consume, donate, or toss food.
- **Clean Your Home:** Deep clean or hire professionals if renting.

ESSENTIALS

- **Pack Moving Essentials Box:** Toiletries, meds, chargers, change of clothes.
- **Defrost Fridge & Freezer:** Unplug 24 hours before move.
- **Notify Neighbors:** Share your moving schedule for smooth cooperation.
- **Confirm Move Details:** Double-check plans with movers and helpers.
- **Last Walkthrough:** Check every room, closet, and nook.



02 DAYS BEFORE MOVE



MOVE OUT DAY

FINAL CHECKS

- **Supervise Loading:** Guide movers, label boxes, and tip generously.
- **Keep Budget Handy:** Track extra expenses like gas and lodging.
- **Final Check:** Lock up, turn off appliances, say goodbye.

ESSENTIALS

- **Inspect Deliveries:** Check for damage and missing items.
- **Assemble Furniture:** Start with bedrooms for a good night's rest.
- **Unpack Essentials First:** Focus on kitchen, bathroom, and bedding.
- **Update Address & Utilities:** Finalize setup at your new home.



QUICK TIPS & FAQs

- **How much does a cross-country move cost?** \$2,200–\$16,900 depending on distance and home size.
- **When to start planning?** At least 2–3 months before your move.
- **DIY or hire movers?** Professional movers save time and hassle.
- **What to pack in essentials box?** Toiletries, clothes, meds, important documents, toys for kids.
- **How to prepare your car?** Get a full inspection and pack an emergency kit.

START PLANNING
2-3 MONTHS
AHEAD

Downsizing
Reduces
Costs

MOVE DURING THE
OFFSEASON
FOR BETTER
RATES (OCT-APR)

USE PROFESSIONAL MOVERS
FOR EFFICIENCY
AND PEACE OF MIND

