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The Careful Movers

The Ultimate Out-of-State Moving Checklist

Everything You Need to Know for a Smooth Relocation

Moving to a new state is exciting—when you have a plan. Use this timeline to stay organized from budgeting to settling in.

8–12+ Weeks Out: Plan & Budget

- Choose your move date and map a simple week-by-week timeline
- Build a move budget (housing, utilities, groceries, travel, supplies, storage)
- Research cost-of-living changes (taxes, groceries, utilities)
- Check income tax implications (consider a tax pro if needed)
- Cost benchmark: Average 1,000-mile move is ~$4,890 (varies by home size/services)

6–8 Weeks Out: Choose & Book Moving Support

- Decide: full-service movers, DIY truck rental, container, or freight
- Compare 3–5 reputable long-distance movers (reviews + recommendations)
- Verify interstate credentials (USDOT number via FMCSA)
- Request at least 3 written estimates (compare services + fees)
- Confirm whether the crew is in-house or subcontracted
- Review the contract (insurance, timing, payment terms)

4–6 Weeks Out: Declutter & Pack With a System

- Donate/sell/recycle what you don't want to move
- Gather supplies (boxes, tape, labels, padding, covers, markers)
- Pack non-essentials first; go room-by-room to stay organized
- Label boxes: Room + Contents + Priority ("Kitchen—Open First")
- Wrap fragile items carefully and mark boxes FRAGILE
- Disassemble large furniture and bag/label hardware

2–4 Weeks Out: Paperwork, Address, & Utilities

- Create a "Move Folder" (estimates, IDs, medical, insurance, school docs)
- Start a photo inventory for valuables/electronics
- Schedule utility shutoff at your current home + setup at the new one
- Submit USPS change of address and update: bank, credit cards, subscriptions, employer

2–3 Weeks Out: Notify Key Institutions

- Insurance: confirm coverage transfers (auto, home, health)
- Schools/childcare: request records + confirm enrollment requirements
- Memberships/services: transfer or cancel (gym, clubs, local services)
- Notify friends/family and update important professional contacts

1–2 Weeks Out: Prep Homes & Confirm Logistics

- Do a final walkthrough (repairs, cleaning, photos if needed)
- Measure rooms and plan a basic furniture layout
- Confirm mover arrival window, parking needs, and contact numbers
- Finalize travel plans (route, fuel, lodging) and vehicle transport if needed
- Reserve storage if there's a gap between move-out and move-in

Moving Day: Stay Organized Under Pressure

- Keep essentials with you: documents, meds, valuables, chargers, a change of clothes
- Do a final sweep (closets, cabinets, garage, storage areas)
- Confirm inventory before departure and take quick photos of key items/condition

First 24–48 Hours: Settle In Fast

- Confirm utilities/internet are on and working
- Unpack essentials first (bedding, toiletries, clothing, basic kitchen items)
- Inspect items for damage and report issues quickly (file claims ASAP if needed)
- Change locks/entry codes for peace of mind

First Week–Month: Feel at Home

- Establish a daily routine to reduce stress
- Find local essentials (grocery, pharmacy, parks, transit)
- Transfer providers as needed (medical, dental, vet)
- Meet people—join local groups and start networking
- Give yourself time to adjust and stay connected to loved ones

Are You Ready for Your Move?

Start your journey with Allied Van Lines for a seamless, stress-free relocation!

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