

# Ultimate Moving Checklist

Moving can be stressful enough, but thankfully our friends at **Colonial Van Lines** have years of experience simplifying the process.

<b>Eight Weeks Before Move</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Declutter Your Home</b> Start with focusing on the rooms or items you use the least around your home. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Start with pieces that you aren't going to need over the next 2 months.</li><li>• Pack each room separately to keep organization</li></ul>
	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Create a Moving Binder</b> Being overly organized is not a problem here. Your Moving Binder should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Medical &amp; dental records for yourself and family</li><li>• Any pet veterinarian records</li><li>• Any School records can be sent ahead</li><li>• Get ready to save all receipts related to your move. IRS grants tax deductions for moves.</li></ul>
	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Create a Moving Budget</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Get estimates from a few professional movers</li><li>• Start a list of the packing supplies you'll need</li><li>• Determine if moving insurance is beneficial</li></ul>

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## Six Weeks Before Move

### Purchase Your Supplies

After sizing up your home, you should have a reliable sense of how many boxes you may need.

### Start Researching Your New Community

- Learn more about your school zones
- Crime Statistics: Research local crime statistics to gauge the safety of the area. Websites like NeighborhoodScout and local police department websites offer crime data by neighborhood.
- School Ratings: If you have children or plan to in the future, research school ratings and reviews. Websites like GreatSchools or Niche provide information on schools in the area.
- Community Events and Festivals: Check for upcoming events, festivals, and community gatherings. These can give you a sense of the local culture and opportunities to meet residents.
- Recreation and Parks: Explore the availability of parks, recreational facilities, and outdoor activities for leisure and exercise.
- Local Taxes: Understand local tax rates, including property taxes, income taxes, and sales taxes, as they can significantly impact your financial situation.

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## Four Weeks Before Move

### **Selecting Your Moving Team**

It's time to secure your moving professionals. Take the opportunity to familiarize yourself with the distinctions between local and long-distance movers. Preparing for the arrival of your moving company is much smoother when done in advance. Evaluate your needs to determine the best option for your move.

### **Supporting Local Communities**

Take a look at your pantry and identify any canned goods that won't be consumed before the move. Rather than discarding them, consider donating these non-perishable food items to a local food kitchen or a friend in need.

### **Planning for Storage Solutions**

If you're considering storing some of your belongings, this is the ideal moment to make those arrangements. Not only does it help you prepare for your move, but it also aids in assessing what items are best suited for relocation and which ones are more suitable for storage.

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## Two Weeks Before Move

### **Begin Packing the Rest of the House**

Start packing items you don't use daily to streamline your move. Consider beginning with rooms like the guest room or the garage, and gradually work your way through your entire home. The sooner you start, the less you'll have to manage last-minute.

### **Call for Services**

Contact your service providers, including electric, gas, and cable companies, to inform them of your upcoming move. Open a new bank account in your destination area, if required, before closing your existing one. Additionally, set up a mail forwarding service to ensure a seamless transition. Addressing these tasks in advance can save you time and hassle.

### **Inform Important/Close Contacts**

Don't overlook the importance of notifying key contacts, such as family, friends, and employers, about your impending address and contact information change. Avoid surprises by ensuring your contacts are aware of your move and the best ways to reach you, even if you're relocating out of state.

### **Double-Check Your Moving Details**

A couple of days before your scheduled move, it's wise to reconfirm all the critical details. Verify the pick-up time and location with your movers and ensure you have the arrival date and time set for your new home. This proactive approach allows ample time for adjustments in case of any unforeseen changes, helping to ensure a smooth moving day.