

CHAPTER 3

During the Move

Now that moving day is here, grab a cup of coffee and get ready for a long day.

This is a day where you want to be sure you have an alarm set so you're prepared to go early. While you're up and moving around, check that there is a path through the house. This will help the movers, whether you or professionals, get to the truck without tripping or damaging your furniture.

A Step-By-Step Guide to Moving Day

You've already managed to get a lot done, but moving day has some tasks associated with it that can't be done in advance.

The first thing you want to do before moving is check all your paperwork. If you have movers, make sure everything looks correct.

Once the movers are in the home, help with the loading process. There's no need for you to lift boxes into a truck, but the movers may have questions that only you can answer. Make sure the people doing the move have your new address and your phone number. This is especially important if you need to leave the home while they work.

If the movers have an inventory list, you will need to sign this. You should also make sure you ask for a copy of the inventory. This is going to protect you if something is lost or broken while your items are being moved. Also, without the inventory sheet, it may be more difficult to file a claim.

Take a last look around your home to make sure nothing else needs to be done. Maybe you forgot something or you need to take out the garbage. If cleaning needs to be done, you can do this on your own, bring in some friends, or hire a service. After this is complete, lock the door and start going to your new home.

Head to your new home so you can supervise the movers when everyone is there. Keep in touch with the movers so you can be aware of whether they have traffic issues, take a short break, or go



Final Check

Take a final look through your home after the movers have packed everything up. A last look might help you remember something you meant to do but didn't quite get to. Look for any final garbage that needs to be disposed of, or notes that need to be left. Doing it now will save you the headache of having to deal with something after you've left.

a different route. This is important because it gives you a better idea of when the movers will reach your home.

If you are on a long-distance move, things can be more complicated. First, make sure the moving company can cross state lines since that isn't always possible. Second, you should be aware of parking rules for wherever you are moving, especially if unpacking the truck will take a long time. Finally, look into restrictions on what you can bring. As an example, many items can't be moved to California, even some fruits and firearms.

After the movers are at your home, show them where all the rooms are. Let them know which boxes should go where. If you used markers or stickers to label the boxes, this should be a simple process. This is a great time to make sure you have some beverages and snacks available for the movers while they work.

Once the moving is complete, it's generally expected that you tip the movers. If you are completing a small move, a 10 to 15% tip is reasonable, but you may want to tip as much as 20 to 25% of the moving cost for larger moves. Many movers prefer cash tips, but remember that you can claim a deduction on your taxes if you use a credit card or check.

A printable checklist for moving day can be found at the end of this booklet. [Click here](#).

Checklist for Moving Day

- Check all your moving paperwork
- Answer questions and direct the movers
- Sign the inventory list for security
- Do last-minute cleaning and other tasks
- Lock up and start to your new home
- Keep in touch with the movers
- Show the movers where items go
- Offer snacks and drinks
- Tip the movers

