

CHAPTER 4

After the Move

Now that moving day is here, grab a cup. Once you've settled into your new home, you probably want to relax, get to know the neighborhood, and meet the neighbors.

However, there are other things that will need to be done in short order to ensure your new house becomes a home. Some of these things offer security; others provide you with the creature comforts you expect.

The main goal at this point of the moving process is to make sure everything is set up. However, you'll also want to get things situated so you can start settling in and getting comfortable in your new home.



Important Steps to Take After Moving

If you're like most people, the last few days you've spent a lot of time eating out. There's nothing wrong with that for a limited time, but your stomach will be happy to get some real food into it. That's precisely why you should prioritize finding the nearest grocery store and stocking up your refrigerator. Get some of your favorite ingredients and cook something comforting for the family.

Along with food, having somewhere comfortable to sleep is a must. The first piece of furniture you will want to set up is your bed. You should also make sure you unpack the pillowcases, sheets, and blankets so you can get a good night's sleep in the new place. This is also a good time to unpack the toilet paper since you don't want to be scrambling for it when you need it.

Changing the locks is another task to handle after moving. It doesn't matter if you are moving into a brand new home or one that dozens of people have lived in before. You are never going to know who else might have access to the home. You can change the locks on your own or simply call in a professional to take care of it.

Along with the locks, you want to be sure your home is secure.



Necessities

Don't assume that food will be easily available when you arrive at your destination. Plan ahead and make sure that the most basic necessities are at hand. That includes pillows and bedding, and easily forgettable but oh-so-important toilet paper. You don't want to have to look for these items when you're tired and hungry.

That's why you want to set up a home security system. If you haven't already done this, you don't want to wait long. You can reach out to us at Connect Your Home to see what your options are and get the installation scheduled. All it takes is a short phone call to 888-411-7814.

The next step you should take is checking your utilities. Is everything working the way it should? If so, great. If you find that you don't have gas, the electricity isn't working, or you have no water, that needs to be handled. This is another situation that can seem daunting but doesn't have to be. Put together a list of service providers with phone numbers for gas, power, water, or sewer for easy reference.

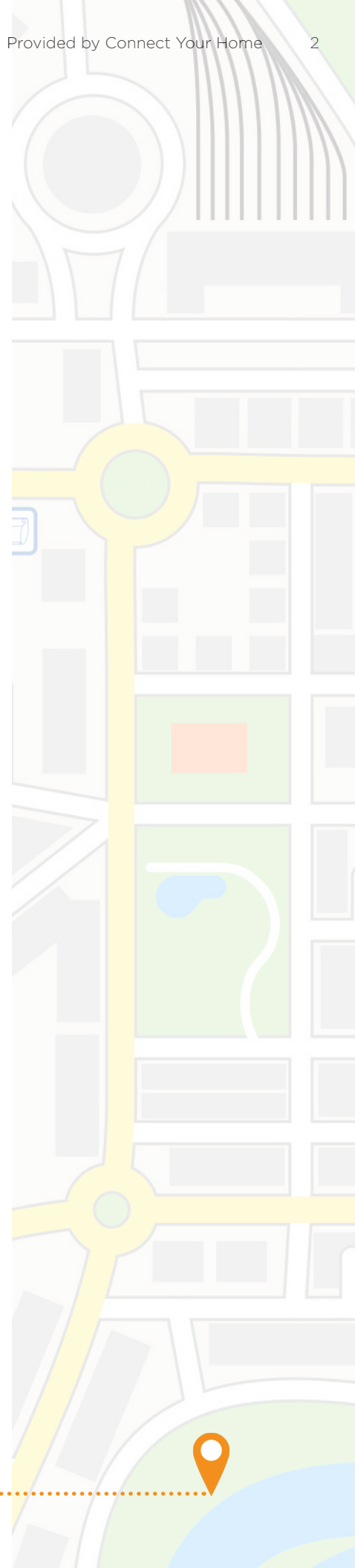
For those who are moving into an area with a homeowner's association (HOA), it's time to make sure you know all the details. Get in touch with the HOA and find out about policies on things like lawn care and pets. You also want to find out what your monthly dues are so you can add the amount to your budget. Finally, add the due date to your calendar so that you never forget to send in what you owe.

Are you hosting a party? If you want to have a housewarming party, you should start working out the details now. Wait a week or two to throw the party so you can be sure you are all settled in. For now, you can set a date and make invitations. Drop by the neighbors and pass them out. This is a great way to establish yourself in the neighborhood and even make a few new friends.

There are two more things you will want to get out of the way in the first day or two after your move. First, if you used a moving company to handle your belongings going from one location to another, now is the time to leave a review. Let people know if things went well and alert potential customers to challenges you had, if applicable. Second, this is also the ideal time to send out thank you cards to anyone who helped with the move.

Additional Steps to Take a Few Weeks After the Move

At two or three weeks in, you should be feeling comfortable in your new dwelling. The main goal at this point is to be fully moved into your home. After that, we want you to reach the point where the moving process is over and nothing but a memory. You're already pretty close to that point if you've been following this guide, but there are a few more things to handle first.



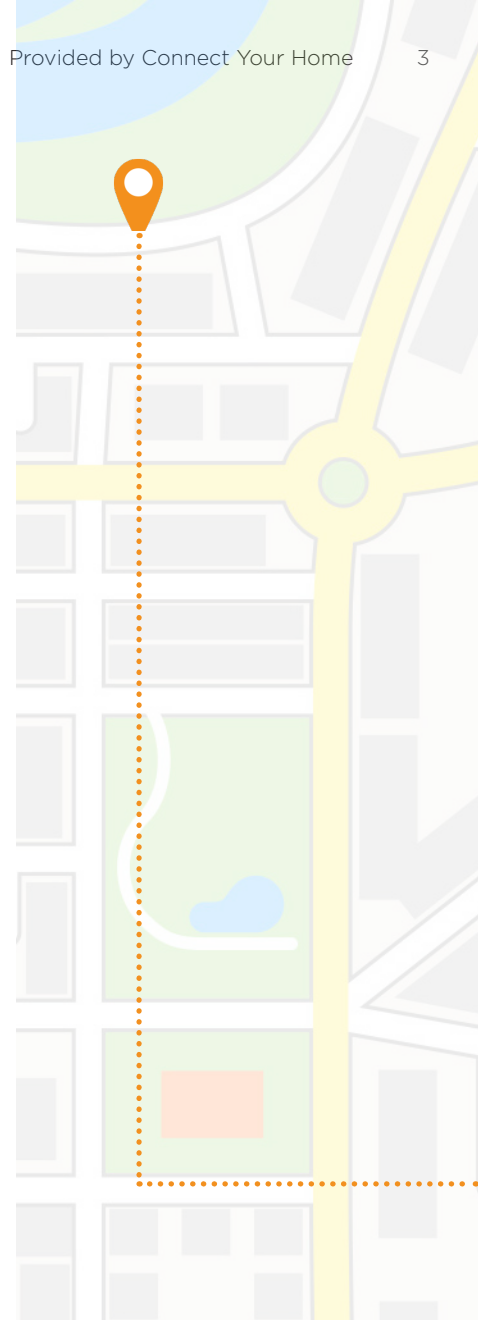
The biggest thing you want to do at this point is finish all the unpacking. This can be daunting and will take time, but it will also be worth it. Once things are all in their places, you can fully settle down and relax. There's no more need to be rummaging through boxes to find items at the last second. Everything should have a place and your home should be organized so you can easily find everything you need.

You already had your door locks changed and you have a key to get in and out. Now is a great time to make some spare keys. You might want to have keys for the kids or a family member who comes over to help around the house. If you have service people coming in, perhaps you want a key that they can use to get in. If nothing else, a spare key is good to have just in case you lose the original key.

A few weeks ago, you started planning your housewarming party. Now, you can actually have it. This is a reward for you making it through the moving process, but it also acts as a way to get to know the neighbors. So make snacks and drinks, hand out favors, and make sure to have a good time.

What else do you have to do? Take the moving binder you used throughout the moving process and put it away somewhere. It could come in handy in the future. You can use the binder to map out a future move and make things easier.

After that, all you need to do is relax. You've made it through the move with flying colors. Now is the time to get used to your home, your new location, and the new life that you have made for yourself. You did it and you came out on the other side completely unscathed. Congratulations!



Steps to Take When Moving Out of State

There are differences between moving across the city and moving to an entirely new state. Those who are roughly in the same location can continue to use the same services they did in the past. However, moving to a new state has extra challenges that need to be accounted for. This section of the guide will look at some of the things you may need to do when moving a long distance.

Do you have a new job in the place where you are moving? Most people do, but not all are so lucky. Some people end up moving for a spouse's career and need to find one of their own. You can start looking for employment before you leave, but you may end up doing the same once you're moved. So work on your resume, make sure you have letters of recommendation, and get out there.

Another consideration when moving a long distance is finding a new doctor. You likely had one you trusted but can no longer visit because they are too far away. Consider whether you need a primary care doctor, a specialized physician, or both. Research your options and ask people you know for recommendations. It is also important to know where the nearest emergency room is located.

A new school will be needed if you have children. If you haven't found the right school, that should be a priority. Look at all of your options. Visit school websites to learn more about the curriculum, the number of students per teacher, and what extracurriculars are available. Consider distance, as well. Visit potential schools before you make a final decision.

If you haven't registered your car and transferred your driver's license, that needs to be done. Both of these things can be done at the local Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) office. There are deadlines for registering vehicles, so make sure you are aware of those. In addition, you'll need to have proof of insurance, personal identification, and other documents, so get those together and ready.

Updating your voter registration is another consideration. When your address changes, your voting location often will, too. You can register to vote in person, through the mail, or online. In many states, you need to register around two to four weeks before the election you want to vote in. The US Vote Foundation website will give you more information about the dates for the state you have moved to.

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



After Move Checklist

- Fill up the refrigerator
- Set up the bedroom
- Change the locks
- Get a security system
- Make sure you have utilities
- Get the Internet connected
- Choose a television company
- Find out the HOA policies
- Plan the housewarming party
- Rate the moving company
- Send out thank you cards
- Finish unpacking
- Make some spare keys
- Have a housewarming party
- Put away the moving binder
- Find new employment
- Choose a family physician
- Select schools for the children
- Register your car and update your driver's license
- Update your voter's registration.