



# EASY MOVE GUIDE

**EASY**

**MOVE**

**GUIDE**

# **Making Your Move Simple and Seamless**

Let's face it...moving can be stressful! Whether this is your first or fifth move, there are always things that get missed, so we created this guide to make your move a little less aggravating and a lot more fun!





# Contents

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<b>4</b>	<b>Stage 1: Do Your Homework</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Stage 2: Logistics</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Stage 3: Packing</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>Stage 4: Taking Possession</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>Stage 5: Leaving Your Old House Resident-Ready</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>Stage 6: Moving Day!</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>Stage 7: After the Move</b>
<b>31</b>	<b>Other Things to Think About</b>





# Stage 1: Do Your Homework

I know, you thought you were done with homework once you left school, but one of the first things that needs to happen is research! From picking movers to picking doctors, you need to start off the process by knowing what is (and isn't) available.



## Choose Movers

Whether you decide to rent a trailer and motivate friends and family to help you move, or hire professional movers to handle the details, you will want to make sure you research any movers you are considering. Don't overlook moving company reviews when doing your homework, and look for a mover that is licensed, insured, and trustworthy. Check the Better Business Bureau (BBB) and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) for their top choices.

Also, don't forget to research the moving company's non-allowable list. This list typically includes such things as: aerosol cans, paints, pesticides, cleaning solvents, scuba tanks, propane tanks, fire extinguishers and fertilizer, and so on. It's a good idea to contact the moving company for the full list and any specific instructions they might have.

## Research the Neighborhood & Area

If you are moving to a new city or state, one of the first things you will want to do is get the lay of the land, especially when it comes to local businesses. Whether you need to find a new hairdresser, grocery store, tool shop, or plumber, you will want to have a good idea of what's available in the area. Checking apps like Yelp or joining local community pages on Facebook or NextDoor will provide you with reviews, recommendations, and photos to help you make decisions for services.

If you have school-aged children, you will also want to research both public and private schools, as well as recreational clubs and activities for them to participate in.



## **Research New Health Care Providers**

Depending how far away you are moving, you may need to find a new doctor, dentist, and pharmacy. You could first ask your current primary care physician for any recommendations they may have in your new city, as they have their own networks and contacts and could possibly recommend a good fit for you. If they don't have any recommendations, you can ask your health insurance company to find a doctor that is in your network of providers.

## **Research State Laws Regarding Plants**

Many states have laws and restrictions against certain plants crossing state lines. Your moving company may have more information on this, but you can also check with the National Plant Board to see the restrictions and regulations.



# Stage 2: Logistics

Once you have done your homework, it's time to start sorting out the logistics of moving. From changing your address to preparing your new home for your arrival, this will be the bulk of your efforts from now until moving day.



## Changing Your Address

While you go through the pains of contacting everyone to update your new address, having your mail forwarded for several months after the move can save the stress of missed mail! Go to the official USPS website to set up mail forwarding to avoid any hiccups in getting your mail during moving time. The last thing you want is to not get any bills, letters, checks, or packages because they were sent to the wrong place!

## Register to Vote

Don't forget to update your voter registration address as soon as you can. If there's an election within 60 days of your move, you can use your old polling place or mail in an absentee vote. Other elections will insist that you register at least two weeks before the voting date, and depending how far you move, you may have to live in that area for a certain amount of time before you are permitted to vote.

## Cancel/Transfer Utilities

Depending on how far you are moving, you may not have to cancel your utilities completely. It's possible that you can simply transfer your services to your new address, so contacting them to arrange this change can be done quickly and easily. If you do need to cancel, be sure to arrange for your new utilities to begin on moving day so you don't have an inconvenient interruption in service.

You can schedule disconnect and reconnect dates for water, gas, and electric, and arrange to have your home security system provider schedule installations after the move. Keep in mind that it can take a week or two for providers to set up services, so it's best to arrange for this with plenty of time before your move.

If you're moving into a regulated market, you may only have one choice for municipal utilities like gas, electric and water. In deregulated markets, there are several options for utilities providers who can compete for your business, so you may need to research to find your best option.





## Arrange for Phone/WIFI/Cable Installation

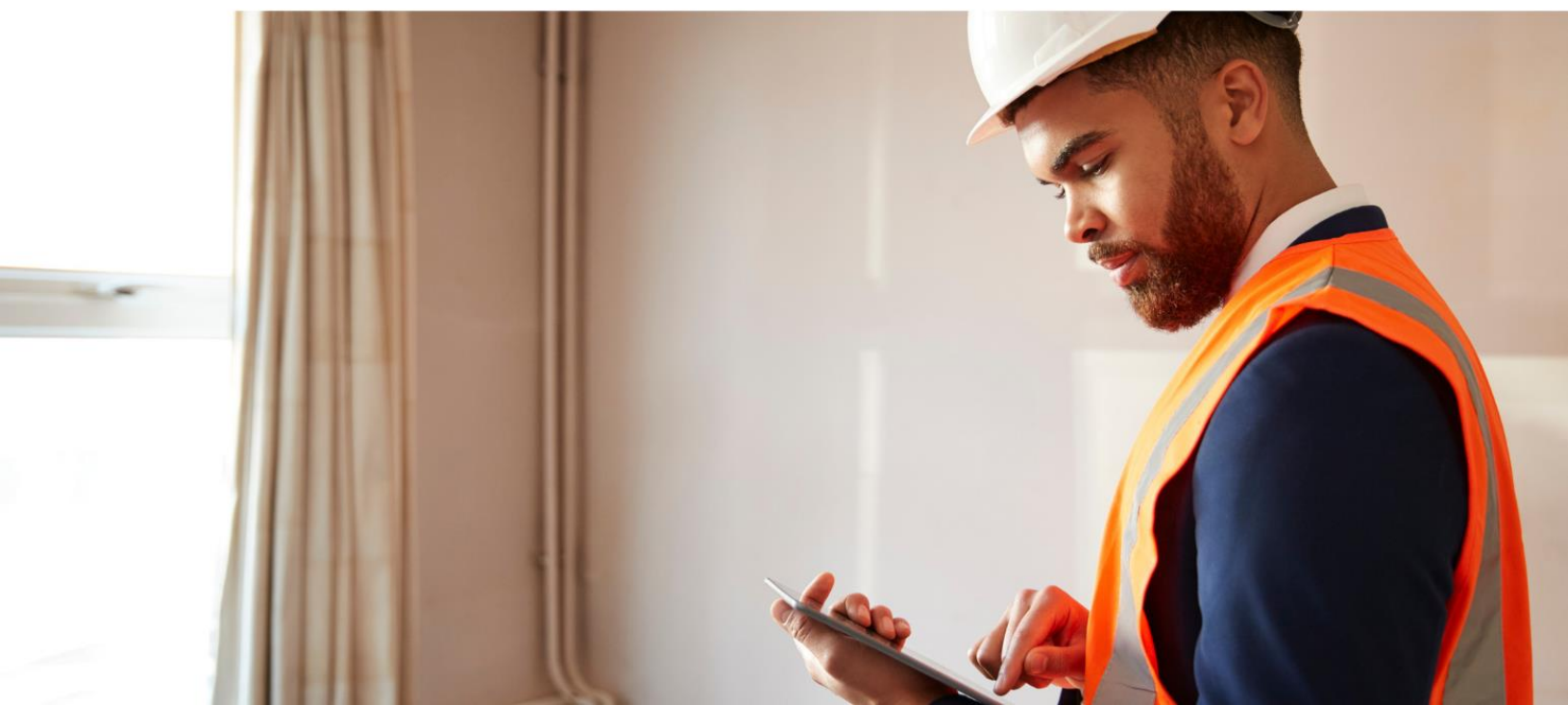
In this day and age, being without internet is a problem! With a large portion of professionals working remotely, ensuring that you have internet and phone services ready to go for move-in day is essential.

Schedule installation at least 2 to 3 weeks in advance to ensure that your services are activated in a timely manner and to also get the appointment slot that is most convenient for you.

## Arrange for an Inspection & Repairs

You may have had an inspection conducted during the home-buying transaction, but if you didn't, now is the time! Whether you want to make sure the seller made the repairs as discussed during the purchase or have a few other things checked out, make a list of what you want looked at before arranging the inspection. Make sure you stay in the house during the inspection, and if anything needs fixing, request that the seller have it taken care of prior to closing.

If these repairs aren't taken care of by the previous owner, try to have the repairs done before you move in, or fixed shortly after your move.



# Planning Furniture Arrangements

Dreaming about life in your new home is exciting, but before you move in, don't forget to take a look at the housing plans of your new home and measure the interior spaces and your own furniture. By doing so, you'll know exactly what belongings will fit where in your new home, and you will be able to direct your movers where to place all your furniture.

If you realize that your couch isn't going to fit into your new living room, you may need to donate it and find furniture better suited to your new space.



*Dreaming about life in your new home is exciting, but before you move in, don't forget to take a look at the housing plans.*

# Hiring Moving Day Help

Perhaps you decided not to hire professional movers and plan to rent a truck and move things yourselves. If this is the case, "Many hands make light work!" Recruiting some friends and family to come help load, unload, unpack, and carry will help make your move go faster, and the enticement of pizza and beer (or soda) as a thank you will make the day enjoyable!

If your friends suddenly vanish when it comes time to unload, there are hybrid moving companies that will be there when (and if) you need them to help load and unload your belongings.

# Get All Important Documents Together

Make sure that you have all your important documents together and put somewhere safe. Things like birth certificates, medical records, insurance policies, last will and testament, or anything else like that needs to be packed and taken with you. If these things are in a safety deposit box at the bank, don't forget to collect them before you move to another state.

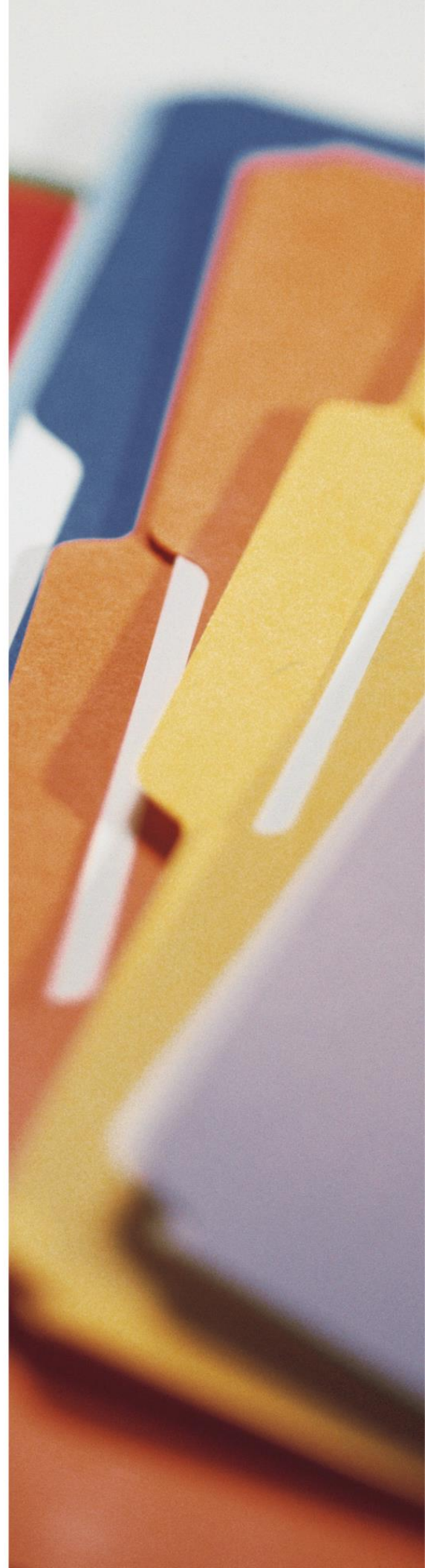
## Pictures Are Worth a Thousand...Dollars

Moving those fragile and valuable items can be nerve-racking, so it's important to take precautions, especially if you are using movers. Create a valuables inventory by taking a photo of each item. You will have proof of their original condition in case they are damaged during the move. As excellent as the movers might be, accidents do happen, so having this insurance is worthwhile.

## Moving Prescriptions/ Medical files

As we discussed previously, researching doctors and finding a new pharmacy is something you will want to do before you move. You will need to contact your current pharmacy to alert them to your move and get a copy of all prescriptions to bring with you to the new pharmacy.

You can also contact your old medical office and arrange to have any medical files sent to the new doctor you have chosen.



# Send Out A “We’re Moving!” Announcement

Don't forget to let your friends and family know you've moved and what your new address is so future residents of your former home don't get your Christmas cards for the next several years! Whether you get fancy and send out an official announcement or just text or email everyone, they will want to celebrate with you!

# Take Out Cash Before You Move

It's always a good idea to have some cash on you during the move, especially if you are moving to another state. Not only might you want to tip the movers after a seamless trip and a job well done, you may need some cash along the way for incidentals.



# Stage 3: Packing





## Get Packing Supplies

You can save a lot of money by collecting free moving boxes from local businesses and retailers such as grocery stores, liquor stores etc, as well as using laundry baskets, bins, suitcases, and other large bags to move your items. Don't forget to label all your boxes with the room they are to go into, and if you want to list a quick summary of the contents, that can help tremendously when searching for something after the move.

## The Right Tool for the Job

Is this your first home? If yes (and even if no), start thinking about whether or not you will need such things as a lawnmower, rake, snow shovel, sprinklers, or even a household toolkit to maintain your new home.

## Do You REALLY Need It?

When packing, take the opportunity to evaluate your belongings. If you haven't used it in years, you probably don't need it. Don't move it if you don't use it! Things like clothes that mysteriously shrunk a few sizes or furniture that you no longer want can be donated and note what needs to be replaced after you move. You could even host a garage sale to make a little extra cash to fund your move.

# Pack the Essentials Box

There are certain things that you are going to need on your first day in your new home. Fill a box with these essentials such as toilet paper, paper towels, a shower curtain & rings, a lamp or two, extension cords, eating utensils and paper plates, and trash bags will make your first day and night in your new home easier.

Have an overnight bag packed for each family member that contains pajamas, toothbrush and toothpaste, medications, and a change of clothes or two as well as any personal items they might want right away.

You may even want to have air mattresses and bedding, snacks, water, and other essentials you might need in the first 24 hours...just in case!



## Pet Love

Are you moving with a pet or two? Make sure you have some of their food and toys in the “Essentials” box, as well as any crates, litter, bones, and dishes.

On moving day, keep your pets in a quiet room with the door shut, or at a friend's house. This will ensure that your cat or dog won't get scared and try to make a quick getaway while the movers load up the truck. During the moving process, try to keep your pet's routine as normal as possible. For great advice making this transition as safe and stress-free as possible, you can [check out this site](#) for more tips.



# Getting Organized

Before you really dive into packing, start by organizing your home. Any items that you will be donating or getting rid of should be put in their own pile, as well as another pile for anything going into storage for the time-being. Once you start packing, you can organize the boxes according to room, labeling each box with what room it will go to, and even including a list of the contents to make unpacking easier. Make sure you label any boxes with fragile items as “Fragile” to avoid them being damaged in the move.

# Take Advantage of a Storage Unit

If you are downsizing or putting some things into storage for now until you have your new basement renovated or the sunroom addition built in your new home, don't wait to reserve your unit. You will want one that has security as well as a climate-controlled environment.





# Stage 4: Taking Possession

Jingle-jangle, you now have the keys and possession of your new home! Before you start unloading your belongings, there are a few things to take care of that are much easier done when the house is empty.





## **Give Your New Place A Thorough Cleaning**

Giving the new house a thorough cleaning before you move all the furniture into it can make it much easier to get at the grime. Have the carpet's steam-cleaned, wipe out the cabinets and cupboards, paint the walls, and plug in power bars while you have no obstructions. This allows you to get at every little nook and cranny in case the previous owner wasn't very thorough. You could also schedule a cleaning service to come in and do a thorough clean prior to your arrival so you can move into a clean home!

While you are conducting this deep clean, take the time to get at those areas the previous owners may not have thought of. While in the laundry room, vacuum out the dryer vent. As you are clearing dust from walls and ceiling fans, change the batteries in your smoke detectors. When you clean out your kitchen cabinets, find a proper place to store a fire extinguisher. These are little safety measures that could be important later!

## **Extermination and Pest Control**

I'm sure you don't want any additional houseguests when you move in, so it might be a good idea to hire an exterminator to check your home for any undesirable guests, and plug holes and spray to prevent any from moving in.





# Stage 5: Leaving Your Old House Resident-Ready

While the excitement of moving into your new home may be occupying your thoughts, don't forget to take care of your current home to leave it ready for its new owners! It's just good etiquette, after all.

# Renters: Check Your Lease/Rental Agreement

Your landlord has likely already included a list of exactly what is expected when you move out, so follow those instructions. Failure to do so might cost you that security deposit!

## Cleaning and Repairing Damage

Any repairs that were negotiated in the sale of your home should be completed, make sure any holes in the walls are patched or filled, and leave any leftover cans of paint in your home so the homeowners can touch up anything as needed (and know what the colors are in case they need to purchase more).

Do a deep clean of your home, ideally when everything is cleaned out of it. If you are unable to do this, hiring a cleaning company to come in after you to make sure it's ready for its new owners. They will love you for it!

## Take It All

Unless it was specified in the sale of your home, take all the furniture out. Whether you are moving it or donating it, leaving it there for the new owners to deal with is not the way you want them to start their life in your former home. Would you want to deal with leftover stuff from previous owners? Probably not, so make sure the home isn't left with anything that isn't supposed to be there.





# Stage 6: Moving Day!



## Picking the Move Date

If you are on a budget, or want to save some money, choosing a day in the middle of the week and in the middle of the month can save you money when hiring professional movers. Also, avoid moving in peak moving season when rates are usually higher. Between October and April, the rates tend to be lower, and the demand is less than over the summer months.

## Use the Right Moving Supplies to Avoid Issues

Avoid using damaged boxes when moving, and certain items such as TVs, mirrors, and pictures might need a specific type of box to prevent damage. These may also benefit from professional packing. Also, some items may need to be tied down in the moving truck to prevent them from rolling or sliding around and damaging other things. Most rental hauling trucks will come with blankets and tie-downs so that you can secure those things that need to be secured.

## Do A Walk-Through

Do one last walk-through of your home to make sure you got everything, and there are no dirty spots or damage that need to be dealt with before you officially hand over the keys.

When arriving at your new home, do a walk-through to check all the rooms. Make sure that the items that were negotiated to stay are there as agreed upon, and look for any damage or issues that weren't there the last time you were there.



# Stage 7: After the Move





# Take Some Time Off

Moving is a lot of work, so it might be a great idea to take a few days off work in order to spend some time unpacking the mass of boxes and arrange the furniture. You will also likely be waiting on several service people to deliver things, install things, and repair things, and they almost always need to have the homeowner on hand, so having a few days off to get settled is important.

## Update Insurance and Registrations

Now that you have moved, it's time to update your homeowner's insurance policies with the information about your new home. If you have a home warranty or service plan, that policy will also need to be updated, and if you just built your new home, you will need to check with the home builder to get the details of the new home warranty, if it's included.

You will also need to update your car insurance at your new Motor Vehicles (DMV) branch, as there are many factors and rate variances that will affect your policy. Updating your address on both your registration and your driver's license is something that can be done at the same time. If you are moving to a new state, you will need a new driver's license. This usually needs to be done within 30 days of your move, but check with your local DMV for the details.

## Change the Locks

One of the first things you want to have done after moving in is getting your locks changed. You never know who has copies of keys to the old locks, and the last thing you want is some stranger letting themselves into your home! New locks will give you peace of mind and updated security. Don't forget the back door, garage doors, and shed doors, as well as any other locked building on your property.



## **Check for Leaks and Other Damage**

If you had a home inspection done during the closing transaction of your new home, you may already know of any leaks and damage, but right after moving in is the perfect time to check for new damage, or damage that wasn't noted on the report. Give a visual check under sinks and around toilets and run the water and flush the toilet to watch the nearby pipes for any leaks. Also, pay attention to the location of any inside water valves, so if you must turn the water off to anything, you know which valve belongs to what faucet.

A tip for locating any potential leaks that are occurring in unseen pipes: turn off all faucets, make sure the dishwasher isn't running, and no lawn sprinklers or yard fountains are on. Once everything is turned off, check the water meter (usually located outdoors at the side of the house). If the dial is moving, you likely have a large leak somewhere. A slow leak will take awhile for the water meter dial to change, and if it isn't moving at all, wait a couple of hours and check the dial again (while leaving all the water off).

## **Have Your HVAC System Checked**

Your A/C and furnace are a necessity to your comfort and survivability, so it's important that you or a technician checks out your HVAC system in the weeks after your move. Inspect your heating and cooling units, the ducts, and the insulation for any signs that something isn't working as intended. If it looks like maintenance is needed, get on top of it as soon as you can.

## **Replace the Air Filters**

It's a good idea to change the air filters when you move in, as you don't know when they were changed last and it's a good way to start fresh. This could easily improve the air flow in your home and cost less energy for your HVAC system to circulate the air.



## **Find Your Circuit Breaker Box and Main Water Valve**

As you tour your new home checking for leaks and damage, it's also a great time to locate the circuit breaker box and the main water valve. Not only is it extremely valuable to know where the fuse box is in case you lose power in your home, you will want to rule out any problems with the house before calling the electric company. It would also be a good idea to keep a flashlight tucked nearby in case you need to check the fuse box during a power outage.

Knowing where the main water valve is located can be key if you discover a major leak and need to shut off the water in a hurry!

## **Submit Any Claims for Damaged or Lost Goods**

If the moving company you used inadvertently lost or damaged any of your belongings, you will want to submit a claim to the company, and you may not have a large window of time in which to do this. Take plenty of photos (and remember those photos you took before the move? Yeah, this is why we took those!) of the damaged property and contact the company to begin the claims process. Thankfully, you have the evidence in the form of the inventory and photos you took earlier, so submit those also, and document every conversation with the moving company and claims representatives.

# **Install Smart Devices and Security Systems**

Once your internet is set up, you can start programming your Smart-Home devices. Don't have any? Well, this could be a great time to start investing in some! From smart features such as thermostats, leak detectors, speakers, and security devices, there are plenty of easy-to-install ways to help make your life both easier and safer.

## **Organize Your Moving Receipts**

Don't throw out all those receipts from moving, though you might be tempted to! Hang on to all receipts and documents from the move, because depending on your situation, you may qualify for a tax deduction. You may not need to provide the actual receipts, but you will need to know how much you spent, and what you spent it on. However, if you get audited, you will need the receipts, so it's best to organize them and file them away, just in case.

## **Check Smoke Alarms**

While this might have been checked during the home inspection, it's always a good idea to go through your new home and check for the smoke alarms. You want to make sure they are located in the proper place and that they work, and giving them fresh batteries isn't a bad idea either.

You may want to take the moment to plan out the fire escape plan with your family, and if you have multiple story's, purchase a roll-up ladder or another means of escape from the upper levels.

# Don't Get Locked Out



It's inevitable. The day will come when you get locked out of your home, and you want to be ready for when that happens. Whether you hide a house key under a rock in the flower bed, or under the doormat or planter, even leave a key with a friend down the street, whatever you decide to do, the important thing is that you are prepared!

## Get Out and Explore!

Now that all the logistical stuff is done, it's time to have some fun! Head on out into the neighborhood and introduce yourself to your new neighbors. It is also a good time to have a quick discussion with the people who live next door about property lines and what belongs to who. Yes, you should already have the survey, but it never hurts to make sure everyone is on the same page.

Then, hop in the car and drive around the area to find restaurants, grocery stores, parks, pubs, recreation centers, and find out about local events. Most neighborhoods now have a dedicated Facebook group, or some kind of magazine, that will keep you informed of what is going on.





*Welcome to your  
New Home!*





# Other Things to Think About

## Make a Maintenance Checklist

If this is your first home, it's a good idea to have a maintenance checklist to keep on top of any potential issues before they become actual issues! Here is a list of things to check on a regular basis:

### Monthly Checklist

- Clean plumbing fixtures
- Clean range hood filter
- Clean garbage disposal
- Inspect fire extinguishers
- Change HVAC filters
- Clean drains

### Bi-Annual Checklist

- Deep clean entire home
- Inspect water filtration systems
- Run water in seldom used faucets
- Test carbon monoxide and smoke detectors
- Vacuum refrigerator coils

## Annual Checklist

- Schedule termite inspection
- Check kitchen and bathroom grout and caulking
- Clean patio and porch areas
- Clean out the exterior dryer vent
- Evaluate exterior drainage
- Clean chimney
- Inspect all plumbing
- Inspect home exterior and roof
- Service heating/cooling systems
- Clean gutters



### Sources:

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