

## The Ultimate Must-Have Printable Moving Checklist

Wondering when to start packing for a move? Moving can be overwhelming, but it doesn't have to be. Knowing what to do ahead of time helps to prevent chaos, confusion, and unnecessary expenses. At Sunshine Movers, we're here to help make your next home relocation experience a pleasant one.

**Follow our timeline below, and your moving experience will be a breeze!**

### 2 months before move:

- Schedule your move with Sunshine Movers.
- Use Sunshine Movers' welcome folder to include any important moving info. during your move and on moving day.
- Don't know how to move fragile items or antiques? Sunshine Movers specializes in carefully packing and moving your specialty items. [Contact us](#) to find out more.
- Make a list of priorities and important tasks and add them to your calendar. Prepare your family ahead of time for what to expect.
- If needed, reserve a storage unit. [Contact us](#) to find out which company is the best to go with.
- Create a list of items to buy for the new place. Keep it in your smartphone or on your fridge, so it's easy to find and add to.
- Compile a home inventory of all your valuables in case of a natural disaster or if your home is ever broken into. During a move, it's the easiest time to remember to do this. Take pictures and store them in your important documents on your computer. This will come in handy if you ever have an insurance claim and need to provide proof of the item's value (if it's ever stolen or damaged in one of the above situations).
- To prevent any last-minute surprises, schedule a home inspection and any home maintenance. [Contact Sunshine movers](#) for a reliable home inspector and handyman service to work with.

### 6 weeks before move:

- Bad memories of endless days and nights of packing haunting you from your last move? Relax and let us do the packing for you.
- If you decide to do your own packing, **purchase boxes and supplies** from Sunshine Movers (**tip:** get more than you think you'll need). Most people don't realize how many supplies it takes! If you don't need all of your boxes and supplies that you purchased from Sunshine Movers, we will buy back what you don't use!
- If changing schools, transfer records to your children's new school.
- Plan meals around the food in your pantry, fridge, and freezer. Moving is a lot easier if you don't have perishable food to worry about. **Bonus: using what you already have saves money!**
- If moving to a new city, get medical and dental records transferred to new healthcare providers.
- If your new neighborhood has a HOA, read up on the guidelines so you can make sure to follow the rules. This will help prevent wasting money on something your HOA doesn't allow (like outdoor trampolines or zip lines, for example) or get fined for something you didn't know about. Example: You may not be allowed to park on the street next to your home in your new neighborhood.

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## 1 month before move:

- Arrange for time off from work for the move if necessary.
- Declutter your home, room by room. Put donations in your trunk and take them to your preferred charity. Don't leave them in your hallway or rooms to crowd things up.
- Hold a garage sale to sell belongings you no longer want.
- Arrange to have your new home painted if needed. Contact us for a referral to a reliable and top-rated painting company.
- Plan and schedule move-in and move-out cleaning.
- Call to have utilities transferred by move day. Remember to include: trash service, cable, internet, water, phone, gas, and electric.
- Transfer your gym membership and any memberships you want to continue with to your new area.
- Prevent packing disasters! [Read Sunshine Movers' 25 Easy Packing Tips to Make Your Move Stress-Free](#). This is our tried and true moving packing list we give to all our customers.
- Start packing items you won't need in the next month.
- **Pack everything correctly.** The better you pack, the more economical your move will be. **One of our best tips to pack for a move:** keep miscellaneous items to a minimum. This makes it easier for the movers to transport your belongings quickly and efficiently.
- Pack in stages. Don't try to do it all at once. Make it fun by involving family members and play your favorite workout music to keep both fun and energy levels high.
- Take measurements of the spaces in your new home so you know how much room you have for furniture.
- If items don't fit in the new home, decide whether you'll sell, store, or donate them. **Now is the time to plan for this!**
- Sketch out a plan for where your furniture will go in the new place.

- Prepare for any unforeseen moving costs: dining out, purchasing household supplies needed for your new home, and miscellaneous expenses. Set aside money in your budget for these items to prevent financial stress during the move.



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### **3 weeks before move:**

- Submit a change of address form with **USPS online**.
- Plan ahead for moving day. Ask friends and family to help watch young children and pets at another location so you can focus on the move and keep them safe. If this isn't possible, make sure your kids and pets are out of the way of movers. No one wants a lost dog or injured child in the middle of a move!
- Let your credit card companies, accountant, auto insurance, and your employer know your new address.
- If you're traveling a distance to move, get your car scheduled for service before the move.
- Empty safe deposit box and pack it to keep with you during the move.
- Hire a junk removal service if needed. **Let us know** if you need the name of a good junk removal service company.

## 2 weeks before move:

- Tired of packing? Leave it to us. We can take over where you left off. [Contact Sunshine Movers](#) to find out more.
- Cancel subscriptions or have them forwarded to your new address.
- Clean as you go while packing. This is so much easier than doing it all at once!
- Have a step-by-step action plan set up for moving day.
- Start packing your suitcase. Include toiletries and clothing needed for the first few days. [See packing tip #14 here.](#)
- Fill prescriptions with your current pharmacy so you don't run out during your move.
- Just in case, backup your computer.
- Return library books to prevent fines.
- Drop off hazardous waste paint supplies and flammable chemicals at your local hazardous waste disposal location. Sarasota County Hazardous Waste is located at 8750 Bee Ridge Rd., Sarasota, FL, 34241.

## 1 week before move

- Clear out furniture drawers. This step is often forgotten, and when movers arrive and your furniture is turned on its side, everything in the drawer falls out. Removing items from the drawers ahead of time will prevent damage and inconvenience.
- Gather important documents together. Have them with you during the move. Keep with safe deposit box items.
- Take pictures of electronics. This will help when setting them up in your new home.
- Go through your new home with your real estate agent to make sure you know where all the important areas are, such as where your property lines are located, water shut-off valves, attic access, gas shut-off valves, and circuit breakers.

### **A few days before your move:**

- Disassemble shelving from bookcases (or any other furniture that has removable shelves). **Save your sanity tip:** put shelf clips into a bag and label with the name of the furniture piece it belongs to.
- Leave your extra keys on the kitchen counter for the new homeowner or renter.
- Clean appliances. Defrost freezer and clean fridge.
- Empty gas from your lawnmower and any yard tools.
- Set aside your first day box with any items needed on your first day in your new home. Don't forget to include pajamas!
- Hire a house cleaning company to clean the home you're moving out of or clean it yourself so it's ready to go for the new renters or owners.
- Do a walkthrough of your new home. Make sure any agreed upon maintenance was performed properly.

### **1 day before move day:**

- Move vehicles out of the driveway and surrounding areas. This will make everyone's job easier and will make room for Sunshine Movers to park our truck on moving day.
- Clear areas where movers need to go. Remove any debris around furniture. There shouldn't be anything blocking the way of movers on moving day.

### **Moving Day:**

- Pack bedding and disassemble beds. **Keep bedding in a clearly labeled box.** This will be one of your first boxes to unpack.
- Once Sunshine Movers has loaded the truck, go back through the home you're moving out of and make sure you didn't forget anything.

- As Sunshine Movers transports your belongings in your new home, clean and wipe down surfaces to prepare for moving in.
- Set up beds in each bedroom.
- Unpack basic bathroom essentials in each bathroom. You can't go without toilet paper, soap, or toothpaste!
- Have a plan for what you'll eat for your meals on moving day. Many people forget this only to find themselves starved and surrounded chest-high by boxes. Set aside some snacks to eat and drinks to stay hydrated. Plan to have pizza delivered for dinner to make things simple.
- **Make sure Sunshine Movers has the correct address of your new home!**
- At the end of moving day, pop open a bottle of champagne and celebrate — even if you have to use paper cups to drink from. You deserve it!



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## After Moving Day:

- **Set a goal to have most of your boxes unpacked within 2-3 weeks.** No one wants to live in the middle of a pile of boxes. Having a goal to shoot for means it's more likely you'll be done soon.
- As you unpack, keep things organized. This prevents having to move things twice.
- Update your driver's license with your new address.
- Make copies of keys so you have extras if needed.
- Transfer your prescriptions to a new pharmacy in your area or update your pharmacy with your new address.
- Make sure fire alarms and carbon monoxide detectors are working properly and set up in your new home. This is a step many people forget, but it saves lives.
- Set appointments with new doctors, dentists, and healthcare providers if your new location is in a different city.
- Update homeowners or renter's insurance for your new residence.
- Introduce yourself to your new neighbors.
- If you're a dog owner, remember that dogs may be more inclined to bark at new and different noises they're not used to. Make time to take them for extra walks (to help prevent anxiety) and keep them inside until they adjust. Nobody likes a new neighbor who brings barking dogs. **Bonus: walking your dog will help you meet new people in your neighborhood.**
- Send out announcement cards to friends and family with your new location on them.
- Host an open house to show off your new place! Invite your new neighbors.
- Let your friends and family know how happy you were with Sunshine Movers.  
**We love referrals!**

**Applying the steps above can mean the difference between an exhausting, chaotic move or a smooth and organized one.** Our goal is to put a smile on your face and get you into your



new home in the most efficient way possible. When you're prepared for your upcoming move, you'll save time, money, and your sanity.

Need help to find a professional in your new location? We have a list of referral partners we trust and work with. See our [list of trusted providers' page](#) for more info.

**Get started first by hiring the best moving service in the area—Sunshine Movers of Sarasota. [Call or email us today!](#)**