



Countdown to Your Move

You're making the move, and now it's time to get organized. These tips and ideas can help with your countdown to moving. Start as soon as you can. A little bit each day makes a real difference.

1. START SORTING NOW

Pick one area to start with: the bedroom closet; the kitchen cabinets; your files. An hour or two a day is enough time to spend. The important thing is to begin.

How are you moving? Decide and make your reservations as soon as possible; ideally at least eight weeks before your move.

2. WHAT DO I DO WITH MY STUFF?

Start early to find a home for items you're not taking along. Now's the time to give the books to the library; to find out if your daughter wants Grandma's china; to see if the consignment shop will take the extra chairs. Try antique dealers, consignment shops, yard sales, non-profits, etc. Each resource has its own guidelines.

Begin using up canned goods and items in your freezer. If you have too many items, consider donating them to the local food pantry.

3. MAKE A FLOOR PLAN

Ask your community representative for a floor plan of your new home. This will allow you to visualize where your furniture will fit and prevent you from taking too many pieces with you. See our [Tips for Downsizing](#) for more.

4. SUCCESSFUL PACKING

Try to pack a bit each day. Label each box with what's inside and where it goes. Put a big bright sticker on the boxes that contain essentials.



5. NOTIFY EVERYONE

Start contacting friends, family, businesses and services and companies to change your address.

- ❑ Complete an IRS and Post Office change-of-address form.
- ❑ Contact your financial providers, such as your bank, lawyer, insurance agents and credit card companies.
- ❑ Contact your utility and service companies to arrange to have your services disconnected soon after you move. Nothing's worse than the power being cut at 8:00 when the movers are arriving at 9:00.

Print this handy checklist to help you remember everyone.