

# MOVING DAY CHECKLIST: TIPS FOR STRESS-FREE MOVING



## GET A SITTER

Have someone you trust take care of kids and/or pets for the day. That way they won't get stressed out by the upheaval, and you won't have to worry about them getting underfoot.



## HAND OVER THE KEYS

Don't forget to hand over all the required keys to the property. Follow the instructions from your real estate professional or lawyer regarding whom to give the keys too.

*From color-coded boxes to last-minute reminders, I've compiled a few expert tips and strategies for getting through moving day with all your stuff – and your sanity – intact.*

### AT THE OLD PLACE

- ❖ Pack a moving day “survival kit”
- ❖ Have a box or backpack with everything you'll need the day of the move, and the night and morning after, and bring it with you in the car or as checked luggage on the plane. Include items like toiletries, a change of clothes, sheets, towels, shampoo, soap, paper towels, coffee mugs and paper plates. Include important papers like insurance policies, birth certificates, etc. And don't forget a big blanket or sheet to sit on so you can have a “picnic” and not worry about dirty floors.
- ❖ Set aside special boxes for your kids' important stuff, too.
- ❖ Clothes, special toys and blankets, books, photos, toothbrushes and pajamas – ensure they have easy access to everything they need to feel at home in their new space.
- ❖ Color code boxes
- ❖ Assign each room in your new place a color. (Red for the kitchen, blue for the master bedroom, etc.) Put a sticker of the appropriate color on each box – and a corresponding sticker on the door of each room. It's a great way to avoid confusion, especially if movers can't tell which is “Max's room” and which is “Emily's room.”
- ❖ Assign boxes “load last”
- ❖ Vital kitchen stuff, linens, kids' items and other things you'll need right away should be loaded last and unloaded first. Mark them clearly.
- ❖ Clear a path
- ❖ Make sure there's a spot for the moving truck to park, and that there-

are no plants, boxes or furniture blocking doorways and walkways. Remove rugs, disconnect the spring from the screen door and prop open doors than swing shut.

- ❖ Get rid of last-minute garbage
- ❖ Ask your neighbors if you can use their containers to toss any remaining trash. Make sure any hazardous or flammable waste is disposed of properly.
- ❖ Check the meters
- ❖ Take note of your utility meter readings so you don't end up paying for someone else's use.
- ❖ Do a final check
- ❖ Do one last walk-through to make sure you haven't missed anything. Don't forget closets, cupboards and crawl spaces.
- ❖ Turn the furnace/AC off
- ❖ Turn off all the lights, shut all the windows and lock the doors.

### AT YOUR NEW HOME

- ❖ Unload the “load last/unload first” boxes
- ❖ Make sure they can be easily accessed once they're inside.
- ❖ Supervise the rest of the unloading
- ❖ See that the right boxes are going to the right rooms.
- ❖ Set up beds first
- ❖ Before unpacking or setting up anything else, ensure everyone has a comfortable place to sleep.
- ❖ Kitchen essentials next.
- ❖ After sleep comes food. Pull out the coffee maker, the toaster and maybe a frying pan for scrambled eggs so you can have breakfast in the AM.

**Enjoy your new home!**