



MOVING CHECKLIST



Preparing for an Easier Move

Susan Stewart
Professional Organizer
Owner of Perfectly Placed Organization & Design, LLC

With so many things to do, moving can be one of life's most stressful events, and it is easy to feel overwhelmed by the entire process. In fact, according to a recent survey, it takes Americans an average of 182 days to unpack their last box after a move! With a little forethought and planning, you can make your move less chaotic and more enjoyable.

At Perfectly Placed, we specialize in helping clients get settled into their homes quickly and find a perfect place for every item in the new house. But we won't keep all of our secrets to ourselves. We have created this moving checklist to help you get into your new place with fewer hiccups and headaches.

6 Weeks Before Moving Day

- Schedule any last medical appointments with your medical professionals. Ask about how to best transfer your records when you are there.
- Notify schools of your move and have records transferred.
- Get vet records for your pets.
- Contact any clubs or associations about canceling your membership.
- Research and choose a reputable moving company. Be sure to read online reviews.

5 Weeks Before Moving Day

- Schedule your moving truck or moving company.
- Make a folder for all of the important documents you'll want to have with you during the move process. Include vital records (birth certificates, passports, etc.), moving contracts, and any other papers you don't want to get packed.
- You will take this folder with you in the car during your move.
- Declutter. Whether you do this alone, with a friend, or with the help of a professional organizer, this is the perfect time to let go of things you no longer use or love. Remember, the less your moving truck weighs, the less your move will cost.
- Arrange times to spend with friends, so it doesn't all happen at the last minute.
- If you are moving across the country, set an appointment to have your vehicles serviced.

4 Weeks Before Moving Day

- Clean out your freezer and make a plan to use up frozen food before your move. Toss old or expired food.
- Organize your pantry, tossing expired food, and make a plan to use up what you can so you don't have to pack it.
- If you will be doing the packing yourself, collect or purchase moving boxes.
- Boxes can be purchased [online](#), at hardware stores, or [moving truck companies](#). If you don't mind using previously owned boxes, you also have several options. Grocery stores are happy to give you their boxes for free, but you'll need to arrive early in the morning when they are unpacking their boxes before they have already disposed of them. Two other great resources are Facebook marketplace and [usedcardboardboxes.com](#). You will also want to

purchase other moving supplies such as a tape gun, wrapping paper, and stretch wrap.

- Research utility companies in the city where you will be moving.
- Arrange to have utilities turned on at the appropriate times. Don't forget to arrange for trash can delivery and pick-up.
- Make travel arrangements (flights, hotels) if you are moving across the country.

3 Weeks Before Moving Day

- Arrange to have your mail [forwarded](#).
- Start packing storage areas with items like holiday decor and memories.
- Write down or take photos of any paint cans (lids often have the color code used by paint and hardware stores printed on them) you may want to use in your new home.
- Pick up clothes from dry-cleaner, fur storage, or any other storage facility. Be sure you empty any gym lockers or safety deposit boxes.
- Dispose of [hazardous waste](#) and old [electronics](#).
- If you have small children, arrange for a babysitter or playdate on moving day. The same goes for pets. This will be a hectic day, and the less you have to worry about, the better.

2 Weeks Before Moving Day

- Set an appointment for [Perfectly Placed](#) or another [professional organizing company to unpack and organize your new home](#).
- Call your current utility companies to give them the dates to have services turned off. Be sure to have it turned off the day after you move out. You don't want to be without power or air-conditioning on moving day.
- Start packing guest rooms, infrequently used items, and closets other than clothes closets. It is best to pack items by room with heavier items on the bottom of the boxes. Use sticky notes with the word "empty" and label closets you have emptied.
- Pack books. Because of their weight, pack books in smaller boxes.
- Pack the garage and any outdoor items. Be sure to empty oil and gas from lawnmowers and grills. Make arrangements to give that gas and oil away or properly [dispose](#) of it.

1 Week Before Moving Day

- Fill prescriptions.
- Pack decorative items. Take photos of any arrangements you want to duplicate in your new home. Save the hardware for hanging shelves, etc. by placing them in Ziploc bags and attaching the bags to the shelf. If you have large photos and art, you can protect them by cutting and taping boxes together around the frames.
- Have each family member pack a suitcase for 1-2 weeks of items they will need, including clothing, shoes, toiletries, and electronics.
- Get cash for travel and tipping.

- Pack clothing. Clothing in furniture can be kept there. Use stretch wrap to keep the drawers from opening during the move. Hanging clothes can be packed in wardrobe boxes or packed on hangers by [turning trash bags into garment bags](#).

Final Days Before Moving Day

- Take photos of how cables and electronics are hooked up so you can reassemble them in the new house. Pack your electronics. Use [TV boxes](#) for flat-screen televisions.
- Pack the kitchen. Plates should be packed upright, not flat, to prevent breakage.
- Empty the refrigerator by disposing of opened food (condiments, sauces, etc.) or giving them to friends or neighbors.
- Clean the refrigerator.
- Pack any remaining items throughout the house.

Moving Day

- Pack the car for your trip. Be sure suitcases and important papers folder, and other valuables are in the car, so they don't accidentally get packed.
- Strip beds and pack bedding.
- Have bottled water and cold drinks available for anyone helping load the truck.
- Tip the movers. Consider tipping \$4-5 per person for each hour of work.
- Clean your home.
- You've done it! With all of this preparation, your moving day is sure to be less chaotic.

Take the Next Step Toward an Organized Home

Moving companies typically unload your stuff, but don't put it away, leaving you feeling overwhelmed in your new house. With Perfectly Placed, a team of professional organizers will unpack, organize, and arrange your things so that your new house feels like a home.

By offering unpack and organize services for those who live in the St. Louis area, we help reduce that stress and get you unpacked, organized, and settled into your new home quickly and comfortably. In fact, with everything perfectly placed, it may be the most organized you've ever been.

Our Unpacking & Organizing Services Go Beyond a Moving Company

We take the weight off your shoulders as we unpack your boxes, organize your belongings, design your closets (if needed), arrange your furniture, and hang smaller pictures and artwork for you. Within a matter of days, your house can feel like home.

Our services include:

- Unpacking boxes and unwrapping items
- Breaking down boxes

- Wiping out the kitchen cabinets & drawers
- Making decisions about where items will be stored
- Putting away items in an organized manner
- Recommending organizing products
- Locating your linens and making the beds
- Labeling
- Hanging small artwork and styling decor (if time permits)
- Arranging furniture (if time permits)

Call Today

Give us a call at [636-686-0048](tel:636-686-0048) so we can discuss your specific move and time frame. We will help you with deciding what services are best for you and set up a consultation. Let the weight of your move fall on us.

For more information, visit PerfectlyPlaced.org.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Susan Stewart, Professional Organizer, St. Louis, Missouri

Susan started organizing her drawers when she was just a kid. With her family's encouragement, she opened her own business in 2004 and began helping others get their homes in order.

Susan offers practical solutions to manage every day demands. She is passionate about teaching sustainable systems and loves

helping those balancing responsibilities at work and home.

Before beginning Perfectly Placed, she earned a bachelor's degree in Human Development and The Family and completed masters level classes in counseling. She is a member of the National Association of Productivity and Organizing Professionals ([NAPO](https://www.napo.org)) in St. Louis.



perfectlyplaced.org | 636-686-0048