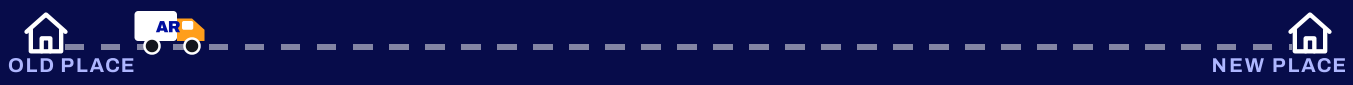
AFFORDABLE RELIABLE MOVING & STORAGE

THE COMPLETE MOVING GUIDE

Your move, handled.

From the day you decide to the day you're unpacking in your new place — here's every step, in the right order, so nothing slips through the cracks.

Old place ———— on the way ———— New place



How to use this guide: Print it and tick the boxes by hand, or open it in your PDF reader and check them off as you go. Work through the seven phases in order — each one builds on the last.

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CPUC MTR 191921 · USDOT 3082256

LICENSED & INSURED · LOCAL & LONG-DISTANCE · PACKING & STORAGE

PHASE 01 — 8 WEEKS OUT

Lay the groundwork

The calm before the boxes. The decisions you make now are the ones that save you money and stress later.

GET ORGANIZED

- [ ] Start a **Moving Binder** — physical or a Google Drive folder.
  One home for every to-do list, receipt, contract, and inventory. Future-you will be grateful.
- [ ] Set a moving budget.
- [ ] Get written estimates from at least **3 moving companies**.
- [ ] Read every contract before you sign, and verify the mover's license number.
  In California, a local move is licensed by the CPUC — look for an **MTR (Cal-T) number**. An interstate move needs a **USDOT number** from the FMCSA. Both are free to check online.
- [ ] Request time off work for moving day.

LIGHTEN THE LOAD

- [ ] Decide what to let go of — garage sale, donate, or toss.
  Every item you don't move is money you don't spend moving it.
- [ ] Create a **room-by-room inventory** — perfect for insurance later.

FAMILY, PETS & RECORDS

- [ ] Research new schools and doctors; request kids' transcripts and family medical reports.
- [ ] Get updated pet records and check licensing rules in your new area.
- [ ] Back up computers, files, and photos.
- [ ] Organize financial and legal records, and keep copies somewhere safe.

PHASE 02 — 6 WEEKS OUT

Lock in the details

Reserve your date, gather supplies, and start telling the people who need to know.

BOOK IT & SUPPLY UP

- [ ] Reserve your moving date with your chosen company.
- [ ] Order packing supplies, or start collecting free boxes from friends and local businesses.
- [ ] Measure doorways, stairways, and elevators so everything will fit.

PLAN THE NEW PLACE

- [ ] Sketch your furniture layout — measure rooms and big pieces.
- [ ] Make travel or hotel arrangements if you're flying or staying over.
- [ ] Set aside a **keep-with-me** pack of vital documents — birth certificates, passports.

TELL THE RIGHT PEOPLE

- [ ] File a change of address with USPS.
- [ ] Notify schools, doctors, insurance, utilities, TV/internet, and subscription services.
- [ ] Ask your landlord about move-out requirements — and share your forwarding address for the deposit.
- [ ] Address any important home repairs.
- [ ] Spend time with family and friends — especially for a long-distance move. 💙

PHASE 03 — 1 MONTH OUT

Start the real packing

Momentum time. A little each day beats one frantic weekend — start with what you rarely touch.

SWITCH OVER SERVICES

- [ ] Fill prescriptions to last until you have a new pharmacy.
- [ ] Transfer bank and credit-card accounts to your new address.
- [ ] Set up TV/internet at the new home and schedule installation.
- [ ] Confirm truck parking — you may need a permit.
- [ ] Buy moving insurance to protect your belongings in transit.
- [ ] Begin enrolling kids in their new school.
- [ ] Confirm move-in day with your real estate agent.
- [ ] Cancel or transfer your gym membership.

PACK & WIND DOWN

- [ ] Pack in earnest — **label, number, and flag fragile boxes**, and list contents in your binder.
- [ ] Start using up pantry and freezer food.
- [ ] Return borrowed and library items; collect anything you've loaned out or put in storage.
- [ ] Make a moving-day playlist. 🎵

PHASE 04 — 2 WEEKS OUT

Tie up loose ends

The finish line is in sight. Lock down logistics, people, pets, and the things you must not pack.

LOGISTICS

- [ ] Confirm moving-day plans with your moving company.
- [ ] Arrange child and pet care for moving day.
- [ ] Forward your mail.
- [ ] Discontinue regular services — newspaper, trash, lawn care.
- [ ] Confirm end dates for utilities, phone, and TV at your current place.

BIG & TRICKY ITEMS

- [ ] Schedule servicing for any appliances coming with you.
- [ ] Clean outdoor furniture and bring it inside.
- [ ] Plan for large items — swing set, trampoline, satellite dish — and decide how house plants travel.
- [ ] Tell your credit-card company you're moving so purchases aren't flagged.
- [ ] Throw a small moving party to celebrate the new chapter. 🎉
- [ ] SSA beneficiaries: update your address with the SSA, VA, and IRS within 10 days of moving.

Don't pack the dangerous stuff

Dispose of flammables — bleach, cleaning fluids, aerosol cans. Movers can't transport them, and they're a fire risk in a packed truck.

Build your "Moving Day Bag"

Snacks, a change of clothes, medications, toiletries, chargers, and key electronics. This rides with *you* — never on the truck.

PHASE 05 — MOVE WEEK

The final stretch

Down to the essentials now. Stay flexible, keep your bag close, and check the forecast.

KITCHEN & CASH

- [ ] Use up or gift frozen food; clean the fridge — defrost and dry it if it's moving with you.
- [ ] Donate nonperishables you can't take.
- [ ] Take out **cash for tipping** your crew.

PACK THE LAST OF IT

- [ ] Pack a suitcase to live out of for the next few days.
- [ ] Finish packing everything but the essentials.
- [ ] Pack a **first-night box** to be unloaded first at the new place.
- [ ] Pack outdoor items; drain gasoline from any equipment.
- [ ] Drain hoses — garden, washer, ice maker — if those appliances are coming.
- [ ] Check every box: closed, labeled, ready.

WRAP UP THE OLD PLACE

- [ ] Schedule a final walkthrough with your real estate agent.
- [ ] Confirm your travel plans.
- [ ] Begin cleaning empty rooms; double-check shelves and closets.
- [ ] Dispose of any debris you're leaving behind.
- [ ] Photograph your home for insurance.
- [ ] Collect keys and garage openers for the new owners.
- [ ] Make a "what if the movers run late" backup plan, and check the weather.
- [ ] Say goodbye to the neighbors.

PHASE 06 — MOVING DAY

The big day

You've earned this. Be present, stay hydrated, and let your crew do what they do best.

AT THE OLD PLACE

- [ ] Be home when your movers arrive.
- [ ] Make a clear, safe path for the crew, and protect floors and carpets.
- [ ] Sign the movers' inventory list and keep a copy so nothing goes missing.
- [ ] Do a final sweep — closets, cabinets, garage.
- [ ] Turn off lights, lock every window and door, and drop keys with your building manager if renting.
- [ ] Keep your moving-day bag with you.

Beat moving scams in five seconds

In California, the mover's **CPUC permit (MTR)** number should appear on the truck, the estimate, and the contract — and all three should match. For an interstate move, check the **USDOT number** the same way. If anything doesn't line up, stop and call the company. *Ours: MTR 191921 · USDOT 3082256.*

AT THE NEW PLACE

- [ ] Get there early and confirm utilities are on.
- [ ] Make a safe, clear path for the crew to unload.
- [ ] Tip your movers and thank your real estate agent. 💙
- [ ] Make your bed, unpack a few necessities, and take a nap — **you did it!**

PHASE 07 — SETTLE IN

Make it home

> Home base, unlocked. Take it slow — but keep the momentum so boxes don't become furniture.

FIRST TWO WEEKS

- [ ] Aim to unpack within two weeks — slow is fine, stalled is not.
- [ ] Set up home security and change the locks if you can.
- [ ] Note immediate repairs; check appliances, furnace, pipes, and chimney — and consider cleaning the carpets.
- [ ] Keep your moving receipts and check the charges for any discrepancies.

MAKE IT OFFICIAL

- [ ] New state or county? Update your license, voter registration, and car insurance, title, and registration.
- [ ] Order new checks with your updated address.

ENJOY IT

- [ ] Get to know your new home and community.
- [ ] Have a housewarming party. 🏡
- [ ] Leave a review of your moving experience. ⭐

Ready to make your move the easy part?

Free, no-pressure estimates from a local crew that treats your stuff like their own.

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