

- [] Contact the chamber of commerce or local government in the new area for information on schools, employment, community services.
 - Destination chamber / local gov't address: _____
 - Phone: _____
- [] Decide whether to use a professional mover or self-move.
- [] Sort and purge: keep / discard / sell / donate.
- [] Collect medical, dental, insurance, and school records. (Under FERPA, 20 U.S.C. §1232g, you may request school records transfer directly to the destination school.)
- [] Find a real estate or property management agent to handle the sale or lease of the old home (if applicable).

4.1 Non-Allowables — Items Professional Movers Will Not Transport

Under DOT hazardous-materials rules (49 C.F.R. Part 177) and standard household-goods tariffs, movers cannot (or will not) transport the following. Plan to dispose of or personally transport these items:

Flammables / combustibles: gasoline, propane tanks, kerosene, lighter fluid, matches, charcoal, sterno, aerosols (hairspray, spray paint), nail polish and remover, paint, paint thinner, cleaning solvents.

Explosives / ammunition: fireworks, ammunition, black powder, pool chemicals, fertilizer.

Corrosives: batteries (car, marine), acids, bleach, pesticides, weed killer.

Perishables: refrigerated / frozen food, open food containers, live plants (most interstate movers refuse — see §13), produce.

Personal / irreplaceable (transport yourself): cash, jewelry, prescription medications, firearms, family photos, passports, wills, deeds, tax records, laptops, keys.

Mover Comparison (up to 3 companies)

Field	Company 1	Company 2	Company 3	Company Name	Total Estimated Cost
\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			
Pre-planning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Packing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Packing boxes / crates / blankets / labels	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Unpacking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Disposal of packing containers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Dollies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Storage-in-Transit (SIT) available	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Damage coverage tier	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
FMCSA / state license verified	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Written estimate obtained (binding / non-binding)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
BBB / complaint history reviewed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

- [] Complete Household Inventory Planner (Section 7) before requesting weight-based estimates.
- [] Use a **written Moving Contract** with the selected company to memorialize services, price, liability, and delivery window.

5. Six Weeks Before Moving Day

- Obtain packing materials: boxes, tape, bubble wrap, packing paper, markers.
 - Start packing least-used items and out-of-season clothing.
 - Schedule mover or confirm truck reservation.
 - Research storage facilities if needed (including Storage-in-Transit through your mover).
 - Begin garage sale or donation process.
 - Notify schools and request transcript transfers (FERPA).
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6. Two to Four Weeks Before Moving Day

- **Confirm mover reliability** (FMCSA for interstate; state regulator for intrastate — see Section 3).
 - Sign written moving contract; keep a copy on moving day.
 - Cancel recurring services and memberships at old address: newspapers, gym, pool cleaning, lawn service, subscription boxes.
 - Notify government offices of address change:
 - USPS (Form 3575)
 - IRS (Form 8822 or 8822-B)
 - Social Security Administration
 - DMV (see Section 9 for state-specific deadline)
 - Voter registration office
 - State tax authority (if different from IRS filing)
 - Notify banks, credit card issuers, insurance providers, employer/HR.
 - Notify healthcare providers and transfer prescriptions.
 - Update digital accounts: streaming services, Amazon, food delivery, alumni associations.
 - **Renter's / homeowner's insurance.** Confirm a policy is in force at the new address **on or before** move-in day; overlap with the old policy through moving day so goods in transit are covered.
 - **Set up utilities at new address** (electricity, gas, water, internet) to ensure availability on move-in day.
 - **Schedule utility shut-off / transfer at old address** for the day after move-out.
 - Continue packing — separate items for movers vs. self-transport.
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- Defrost the refrigerator / freezer.
 - Disassemble large furniture in advance; bag and label hardware.
 - Confirm parking or elevator reservations at both ends (if in apartment/condo).
 - Re-verify mover's USDOT / state license and cargo-insurance status one final time.
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12. Moving Day

- Maintain active communication with movers throughout the day.
 - Supervise loading; verify each box against your household inventory.
 - Take final meter readings (electric, gas, water) at old address.
 - Perform final walkthrough of old property — check all rooms, closets, garage, attic, basement, mailbox.
 - Leave keys as agreed with landlord or new owner; collect receipt of surrender.
 - Carry the essentials bag, inventory list, and signed moving contract in your personal vehicle — **not on the moving truck.**
 - **Review the inventory sheet / bill of lading carefully before signing.** Note any pre-existing damage and disputed condition codes in writing. Your signature without exceptions may waive later claims.
 - At destination: confirm utilities active; supervise unloading; verify each inventory tag as items come off the truck; note any missing items or damage on the **delivery receipt / bill of lading before signing.**
 - Pay the mover only the amount authorized by the contract (remember the **110% rule** for non-binding interstate estimates). Movers on interstate moves must accept at least two forms of payment (49 C.F.R. §375.807).
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13. Special Logistics

International / Cross-Border Moves

- If moving to/from the U.S., file **CBP Form 3299** (Declaration for Free Entry of Unaccompanied Articles) for imported household effects.
 - Confirm destination-country customs rules and any ATA Carnet needs for temporary imports.
 - Confirm mover is licensed as an Ocean Transportation Intermediary (OTI) with the Federal Maritime Commission if shipping by sea.
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14. Post-Move Verification (2–4 Weeks After Moving Day)

- Confirm USPS mail is forwarding correctly; flag any gaps.
- Confirm IRS Form 8822 / 8822-B accepted.
- Confirm Social Security, DMV, voter registration records updated.
- Confirm banks, credit cards, insurance all have new address on file.
- Confirm utilities active at new address and old accounts closed (obtain final bills).
- Confirm security deposit received (tenants) — if deadline missed, send written demand citing state statute.
- Confirm all boxes unpacked and inventory reconciled; **file damage / loss claim with the mover within 9 months for interstate moves** (49 U.S.C. §14706(e); 49 C.F.R. §370.3). Intrastate claims — check state deadline (often shorter).
- If claim is denied or unresolved, invoke arbitration (interstate movers are required to offer arbitration for disputes ≤ \$10,000 under 49 C.F.R. §375.211) or file a complaint at **nccdb.fmcsa.dot.gov**.
- Update emergency contacts with new address.
- Register children for school, sports, activities at destination.

15. Acknowledgment and Sign-Off

This is an **organizational checklist** and is not a contract between the mover and any service provider. Legal obligations to and from any moving company arise from the written moving contract, bill of lading, and applicable federal / state regulations. State deadlines and federal regulations cited above reflect the law as of the date this checklist was prepared; verify current rules with official sources before acting. Nothing in this checklist is legal or tax advice; consult a licensed professional for advice specific to your situation.

Checklist Owner

_____ PRINTED NAME

_____ SIGNATURE

_____ DATE