

CSIA'S MAKE MY MOVE EASY CHECKLIST:

No one associates the word 'moving' with the word 'easy,' but we've got tips to help make the process as smooth and stress-free as possible. Ready? Let's get started!

PRE-MOVE PLANNING



Create a Timeline:

Before doing anything else, write out an ideal timeline. This gives you something to tackle each day and makes the whole ordeal a little less overwhelming. Plus, it helps ensure you don't miss a thing down the road.



Declutter Your Space:

Been meaning to clear stuff out? Now is the time. Whether that means packing up boxes to donate or doing a yard sale, the less you have to move, the better!



Start Saving Boxes:

If you order lots online, be sure to save your boxes in the weeks leading up to your move. Many stores will also give you boxes for free – just ask!



Set a Budget:

Moving-related fees add up quickly (and there are always hidden costs that pop up, too), so do your research and set a budget ahead of time.

Plan Your Grocery List:

Eat what you can in terms of perishable items, and plan meals strategically in the days before you move. The last thing you want is a box full of perishables going bad mid-transit.

Research Moving Companies:

If you're using movers, don't hire just anyone. Check out online reviews, ask for references, and do your research – it'll be well worth it. (And once you sign, know your contract and what you're entitled to!)





Pick Your Moving Day Strategically:

Moving at the end of a month, as well as moving on weekends, is always going to cost more because movers are in higher demand at those times. If possible, save some money by choosing a less busy time of the month.



Schedule a Real Estate Chimney Inspection:

If you haven't already scheduled a real estate chimney inspection, now's the time to do so. By scheduling now, you'll know what needs to be done (if anything), so you can schedule those services and get them out of the way.

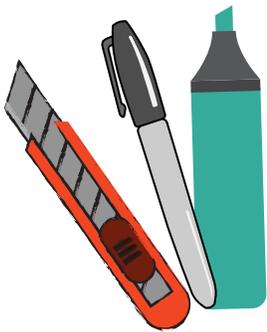
TIPS FOR PACKING

- **Pack an 'Open-Me-First' Box:** As much as you'd love to, there's no way you'll have everything unpacked and ready to go that first night in your new home. So, pack a box with the essentials (a shower curtain, toiletries, plates/cutlery, pillows/blankets, etc.) that you'll need access to right away. That way, when you're ready to call it a day, you can. You won't be left searching and stressing well after you've run out of steam.
- **Make Your Labels Specific:** When you're labeling boxes, take a few extra seconds to jot down exactly what you packed in each box – this makes unpacking so much easier!
- **Take Advantage of Empty Space:** Pots, drawers, suitcases, and the like all have a lot of free space that you can take advantage of. Fill them up! This will leave you more room in the truck and maybe even result in fewer trips.
- **Use Your Camera:** Nowadays, most people have a camera on their phone. Use yours to take pictures of the inside of boxes, disassembling processes for furniture, and the backs of electronic equipment before unplugging – those photos may come in handy later!
- **Keep Your Clothes on the Hanger:** Simply by keeping your clothes on the hangers and laying them flat somewhere, you can save yourself tons of time when unpacking later on.
- **Start Early:** In the weeks leading up to the move, pack the non-essentials early on, so you have less to do during moving week.



HANDY EQUIPMENT TO HAVE

- **Mover's Dolly:** If you don't have one, buy or borrow a mover's dolly. These are affordable, easy to store, and come in handy for moving day (as well as down the road when moving something heavy into or out of the house).
- **Tie-Down Straps:** Keeping your items secure on the trip to the new home is vital. A few tie-down straps could make all the difference.
- **Quilted Moving Blankets:** These heavy-duty blankets ensure your furniture doesn't get nicked or scratched when jostling around the truck.
- **Back Support Brace:** Worried about how moving might affect your joints? A back support brace will keep your body better protected. All the cool kids are wearing them.
- **Furniture Sliders:** It takes a while for things to find their appropriate home within your new home. This is where sliders come in handy! Just slide them under furniture legs to make rearranging seamless and easy.
- **Shrink Wrap:** Some heavy-duty shrink wrap will keep big loads packed tightly together and ensure nothing falls out of your dresser drawers while you're loading and unloading furniture.



- **Big Markers:** Throwing a quick label on your boxes will help immensely when it comes time to unpack in your new home, but only if you can easily read the label. Use big markers to make it easy to find what you're looking for.
- **Box Cutters:** Make unpacking go quicker and smoother with one of these babies in tow.
- **Bubble Wrap:** Newspapers, towels, and clothing items work great for protecting breakables, but if you want to simplify the process, buy a big roll of bubble wrap. (As an added bonus, it's great for popping later when you need to de-stress.)
- **Vacuum Storage Bags:** Not sure how you're going to fit everything on the truck? Cue vacuum storage bags. These babies make everything smaller and easier to pack.
- **Packing Tape:** This is one of those moving essentials that people tend to forget about until the last minute. Stock up now, so you're ready on moving day!
- **Sturdy Boxes:** While it's tempting to use whatever free boxes you can get, evaluate each box for sturdiness before deciding to use it. Worn down ones may fall apart, which will make the moving process longer and more difficult than necessary (and may lead to broken valuables).



MOVING DAY!

- **Stop & Strategize:** Faster isn't always better. Take a minute to load your items strategically (for example, put large/heavy items in the back with lighter items on top). It'll save you time and stress in the long run.
- **Protect Your Belongings:** Again, take some time to ensure your items are packed tightly and safely. Use blankets, padding, and shrink wrap when necessary!
- **Pack a Cooler:** There's no way around it – moving day is exhausting. Have drinks and snacks packed away in a cooler to grab when you need a break or an energy boost.
- **Set Some Kids' Stuff Aside:** Have kiddos in tow? Set a box of their toys and games aside, so they have something to do while you unload. (Same goes for pets.)
- **Dress Comfortably:** You'll be moving, hauling, bending, and sweating – dress for it!
- **Go Easy on Yourself:** Hey, moving is extremely stressful. If you find yourself fighting with your partner, feeling emotional, or even having a breakdown in your new bathroom, don't be hard on yourself. And remember to give your loved ones a break, too!
- **Order Take-Out:** This is really up to you, but consider skipping on the meal plan and ordering take-out at the end of moving day. You deserve a break after all that work, and take-out means no cooking and no cleanup.

ALL DONE?

Finally done with moving day and settled into your home? Here are a few things to keep in mind post-move.



Update Your Address:

If you have subscriptions and bills that need to be redirected, get this done ASAP.



Look Into Insurance Policies:

Changing zip codes could affect your current policy, so now is a good time to really look into yours and check out better alternatives, if necessary.



Visit the DMV:

A new address means a new license is in order! Get your address updated ASAP, so you have one less thing to think about later on.

That's a wrap! Good luck and enjoy your new home!