

How to Get Move-In Night Right

Now that the new place is officially yours, move-in day is fast approaching!

And to make everything as easy and enjoyable as possible on your first day and night, we've got some great preparation advice for you.



Plan All You Can

To make your move to go off smoothly, plan ahead with these time-tested tips.

Pack like you're going on vacation.
(for about a week)

You'll want a small suitcase filled with essentials for each person moving – items like clothes, toiletries, chargers for electronics, and entertainment for yourself and the kiddos.

Scope out the take-out situation.

Nobody wants to cook dinner on move-in day!

Instead, have something tasty delivered so you don't get distracted from unloading. Also, pack snacks and water like you're going on a road trip to keep everyone energized and moving throughout the day.



Ready your two most vital boxes.

You and your home will find yourselves needing these things sooner than later:

A "House Needs" Box – filled with cleaning products (*like paper towels and an all-purpose cleaner*) and basic tools (*like a hammer, wrench, screwdrivers, and scissors*).

A "Human Needs" Box – filled with toilet paper, medicines (*like aspirin*), and adhesive bandages.

And since these are your most important and most needed items, you'll want to pack them last in the moving truck so that you can have immediate access to them upon arriving at your new home.

A Night to Remember

To make your move go off smoothly, plan ahead with these time-tested tips.

Get to know your new home.

Though this is technically your place now, each house also has a character of its own, so go around and get acquainted.



Deep clean while you still can.

Take advantage of nothing being set in its permanent place yet by getting a good cleaning in now, so you won't have to repeatedly stop to do so later.

Battle plan for tomorrow's unpacking and organizing.

Use this time to strategize in the thick of it all to consider where everything needs to end up.

Packing Checklist

- Cardboard Boxes**
Check out grocery stores, office supply stores, or online resources (*like Craigslist*) to get piles of boxes without having to spend a penny.
- Packing Tape**
Be sure to buy the good stuff here, it's got to hold a lot of weight. Also, purchase a tape dispenser; it'll keep you out of a sticky situation.
- Markers**
Label what room each box belongs in to make unloading and unpacking easier. And if you're feeling extra organized, you can even make a color-coded system!
- Fluffy Buffers**
Packing peanuts for keepsakes, bubble wrap for glassware, foam for between the plates. Because the last thing you want is to open a box of broken things.
- Plastic Wrap and Blankets**
Put this between your big pieces of furniture to prevent them from beating each other up in the back of the moving truck while you're driving them to your new home.
- Box Cutters and Scissors**
After you diligently pack and tape up all those boxes, keep in mind that you'll soon need to open them up again. A nearby blade will quickly become your best friend for slicing through the tape.

A Night to Remember (cont.)

Even make sketches in a notebook and use paper cut-outs to figure out final placements for the larger pieces of furniture.

Make memories and take pictures!

Commemorate the big move by taking pictures throughout the day of your family and the house itself. Both will look different from day one compared to the day you leave, and you'll likely enjoy reliving the "then and now" memories of your move and home years later.



Sleep for a change.

Remember, exhausting and exasperating yourself is not the way to enjoy a move. Instead, once you've determined what must be done that day, knock it out, and then end the night with a nice, hot shower (*to ease the moving muscle pains*) and catch some Z's.

The more time you leave for yourself, the more you'll feel like yourself as you go about the process of making your new home your own. And the best way to start a loving relationship with a home that will hopefully last for years is by being yourself and preparing for the best.

Packing Checklist

- Basic Tool Kit**
For taking apart and building back up those large pieces of furniture. It's also good for any homeowner to have one of these, as you'll surely need it again for future home repairs.
- Large Trash Bags**
At the end of packing (*as well as unpacking*), you're going to find stray pieces of trash floating around, as well as generate some new piles of junk. Keep it clean!
- Small Plastic Baggies**
Keep all those different and specific sets of screws (*and other hardware*) together and organized. You'll thank yourself later for this one.

