Last-Minute Move Checklist

Safety & Survival

☐ Charge your phone the night before.
☐ Pack a travel kit containing:
  • Bottled water and dry snacks
  • LED flashlight, duct tape and extension cord
  • Emergency roadside kit
  • First-aid kit
  • Battery- or crank-operated radio

☐ Check your tires.
☐ Keep your moving-truck insurance and emergency numbers in glove compartment.
☐ Visit the ATM and take out cash. If you hired movers, be prepared to tip.
☐ Have every family member pack one suitcase containing:
  • Favorite toy
  • Prescriptions and painkillers
  • Reading material
  • A change of clothes, sleepwear and toothbrush

Comforts

☐ Pack a bedding box containing sheets, mattress pad, pillows and blankets.
☐ Pack a kitchen-and-bathroom box:
  • Bar of soap, toilet paper, toothpaste, bath towels
  • Shampoo, conditioner, other toiletries
  • Shower curtain, bath mat, bedroom curtain
  • Can opener, canned food, small saucepan, corkscrew
  • Paper plates, plastic utensils, napkins
  • Kitchen towels, dish soap, light bulbs

☐ Defrost fridge.
☐ Open washing machine door to prevent mold.
☐ Unplug electronics 24 hours in advance.
☐ Collect all hidden items such as hide-a-keys.
☐ Take the garage door opener out of your car and leave it for new occupants.
☐ Perform a full-house cleaning of your old property and dispose of garbage to leave it fresh for new occupants.
☐ Pack jewelry and small family heirlooms close to you during the move.
☐ Taking houseplants? Water and pack them to ensure they don’t tip or spill en route.

Good Ideas

☐ Double-check pet arrangements. Pack dog/cat crate or carrier, confirm air travel, and pack a pet travel kit with water and food bowls, doggie bags, litter box, food, treats, leashes, collars and tranquillizer.
☐ Pack favorite foods such as bread, peanut butter, apples, nuts, crackers, granola and milk.
☐ Pack travel plates, bowls, utensils and napkins.
☐ Pack diaper bag, baby formula, bottles, extra clothes and blankets for baby.
☐ Pack a handy toolbox with hanging nails, hammer, screwdriver, tape measure, box cutter and pen/marker.
☐ Gather required parking permits and access codes for new home.

☐ Scope out restaurants in the area using Yelp.
☐ Mark extra-fragile boxes before loading.
☐ Take a last look around your old property and make sure:
  • Water, furnace and air conditioner are shut off
  • Light switches are off
  • All utilities are arranged for disconnection
  • Windows are shut and locked
  • You have left keys behind
  • You haven’t left anything behind (except for keys)
☐ Make time for goodbyes.
☐ Download helpful “apps for moving” on your smartphone.