



53 Tips

for a stress-free
home move

Moving home is a fretful process. It takes a lot of planning and preparation. But if planned right, it can be a smooth and hassle-free process.



The moving process is divided in three major parts—

- **Pre-move**
- **Move**
- **And Post-move**

To help you manage each step easily, we've put together a list of steps you must follow.

Pre-move

Preparing for the move



1. Search on Google for ‘Things you need to know before moving home’ or ‘Tips for moving home without stress.’

Before you actually start planning the move, you need to research. This will get you started. You will find articles by moving companies and bloggers who have shared their experience.

2. Make a list of things you need before you move

Are you looking to buy a new home at the destination city? Or will you rent one? Do you have kids? Have you figured out which school they will be going to? Are you moving for a new job? Or will you look for one after

moving? You will need to figure out the details before you even start planning the move.

3. Make a to-do list based on your research



What's the most important thing you need to do? Look for a job? Find a house? Search for a school for the kids? Prioritise what's important and plan things accordingly.

4. Figure out exactly where you want to buy/rent a new home.

If you haven't decided this yet, now is the time. If you're moving for a new job, you already know which city you're moving to. But if you've decided to move first, and then search for a job, you need to figure out exactly where you wish to move.

5. Check our destination guides to learn about the country you are moving to

Our international move experts have put together destination guides for most major cities in the world. It'll help you know about life in that country, job opportunities, economy of the country, education system and just about everything you need to know before you move.

Getting your documents ready



6. Does everyone in the family have a valid passport?

If you are moving abroad, it is obvious that you'll need a passport. Everyone in the family needs a valid passport. Check the validity of everyone's passport before applying for a visa.

7. What type of a visa will you need?

Are you moving for work? Who all are moving? If you are moving for work, you will need a work visa. If you are moving for studies, you will need a student visa.

8. What type of a visa will everyone in the family need?

What about your spouse and kids? Check the country's visa requirements when applying for a visa.

9. What are the other documents you need?

Here's a checklist to make sure you do not forget anything.

1. Passport
2. Driver's license / International Driving Permits
3. Birth certificates of all family members
4. Marriage certificates
5. Divorce papers or custody agreements
6. Legal documents related to adoption
7. Health insurance of all family members
8. Immunization records of all family members
9. Medical records of all family members.
10. Prescription medications.
11. Proof of relationship with your children. Consent form of any non-accompanying parent.
12. Contact information of your home country's embassy or consulate.
13. Credit cards and bank account details
14. Recent photos of all family members

Finding a house



10. Research the area before buying or renting a house

You are moving to a new country or a new city. You obviously don't know too much about the place. Before buying or renting a house, do your research well. Read up about the different neighbourhoods in the city before you zero in on one.

11. What is the neighbourhood like?

What are the kind of people living in the neighbourhood you are interested in? Are there any schools nearby? Is it only a residential area?

You're moving to a new place. Adjusting to life is certainly going to take a while. You don't want to make it difficult by renting a house in a neighbourhood you aren't comfortable in, do you? Before you buy or rent a house, do your research well to avoid problems later on.

12. Is water available 24X7?



There are still many parts of the world where running water 24X7 is a luxury. Make sure to enquire about this before you move. If water isn't available all the time, how do others in the neighbourhood manage? Find out before you make the final decision.

13. Is electricity a problem?

Like water, electricity is also not available all the time in certain parts of the world. It's best to ask about this before you move, than regretting later on.

14. What is the rent and security deposit?



If you've hired an agent to help you out, enquire what the usual charges in the neighbourhood are. If you aren't convinced, look up online. Do your research well, before signing the contract. Once you've made the deal, you won't be able to back out.

15. Will the landlord paint the house before you move in?

If possible, you should visit the house before hiring it for the long term. If it isn't possible, you should at least look at pictures of the house.

If it looks too old or has a lot of cracks and leakage on the wall, you should request the landlord to paint and repair the house before you move.

16. Are you allowed to decorate the house?



Can you drill a hole to hang those shelves? If your landlord hasn't agreed to paint the house, can you put up wallpapers?

Ask this before you move to avoid problems later on.

17. What is included in the rent?

Who will pay the electricity and water bills? What about the maintenance? Before signing the contract, make a list of utilities you will pay for and what are the things that the landlord will pay for.

18. Are guests allowed to stay overnight?

Some landlords have this weird rules that you aren't allowed to have guest stay at your place overnight. This is especially a problem if you are living alone.

To avoid problems later on, ask this before you go ahead.

19. Is there parking space available?

Parking is a huge problem almost everywhere. Does the house come with a parking space? If you're renting or buying an apartment, does the building have a parking lot? If no, where do people living around usually park?



Finding a moving company



20. Search for a reliable moving company

Look up online. Ask friends or colleagues for reference.

21. Short-list the ones you like

Make a list of top 5 moving companies you think can move your home efficiently. You can then compare each one and make the final choice.

22. Are they licensed?

Over the last few years, a lot of fake moving companies have cropped up. To avoid falling prey to one of these, make sure the moving company you are hiring is licensed.

23. Do they have any affiliations?



Having affiliations means you are guaranteed a certain standard and quality of service.

24. Check for customer testimonials

What do past customers have to say about them? People who've moved with them in the past have a better idea of their service. Look for customer testimonials on the website or reviews on sites like MouthShut, Google or Facebook.

25. Ask for a moving quote

Compare multiple quotes before hiring one moving company. Also, when

comparing quotes, don't just consider the price. Look at the services each one offers before making a choice.

26. Hire the best moving company

Once you've done your research, hire the moving company best suited for your needs. Decide a moving quote and sign the contract.

How will you move?



27. Book your tickets

Now that your moving dates are decided, book your tickets. Booking tickets at the last minute is not only expensive but there's also the risk of not getting any tickets.

28. Arrange for a ride to the airport

You've probably given your car to the movers for shifting to your new home. How do you plan to get to the airport? Book a cab or ask a friend for a ride. Whatever you decide, make arrangements at least a day before the moving day.

Saying Goodbye



29. Let your friends and family know that you're moving

Have you told your friends and family that you're moving? It's okay if you haven't had the time to inform everyone. Now that you've finished all the preparations for the move, call up or write to your friends and family to let them know that you're moving.

30. Have a get together

While you are at it, invite friends over for a get together. If you've already started planning, you could all go out for dinner. Or have a potluck. Use this opportunity to let them know how much you loved having them around. And that you'll miss them.

Move



31. Pack your personal bag

Pack everything you'd need on the first night at your new home and the morning after. A pair of extra clothes, towels, your tooth-brush, etc.

32. Carry a first-aid kit

Like they say, prevention is better than cure.

33. Pack enough food and water

Moving is hectic. You are bound to get tired. At the new place you might not know where to buy food and water from, immediately. It's wise to carry some food and water with you.

34. Keep important documents with you

Always pack your important documents in your personal bag. You never know when you might need it.

35. Don't forget to carry your tickets, passport and visa

Keep scanned copies of your tickets and passport with you. Before leaving home double check if you have your tickets, passport and visa with you.



On the moving day



36. Wake up early

We know you must be tired from all the planning and preparation for the move. But don't hit the snooze button yet. Wake up early on the moving day so you have enough time to prepare before the movers come to start packing.

37. Exercise if possible

You've got a long day ahead of you. Take this time to relax a bit. Go for a walk. Or practice some light exercises or yoga. It'll keep you fresh and energised for the rest of the day.

38. Wear comfortable clothes

Wear light and comfortable cotton clothes. Wear comfortable footwear, too. Don't wear anything too loose or too tight. Don't wear colours that are too light and may get soiled.

39. Eat breakfast before the packers and movers arrive

Once the movers arrive, you won't have time to do much. Also, you can't be sure when you'll get time to eat. Before your movers arrive, eat breakfast so you're prepared to face the day.

40. Let your packers and movers take over

Once your movers and packers arrive, let them do their job peacefully. Guide them if they need something. Let them know if you want something done in a certain way. But don't nag.

41. Before loading, check all your bags and boxes thoroughly

Make sure nothing is left behind. Count the number of bags and make a note.

42. Check all receipts and records before the packers and movers move your goods

Keep your relocation bills and records safe. You will need it on reaching your destination.

Post Move



43. Clean the new house

We're sure your landlord must've cleaned the new house before handing over the keys to you. If the house isn't very clean, get it cleaned before your household goods arrive. If the house is clean, it's still a good idea to quickly sweep and mop the house.

44. When the movers arrive with your household stuff, check if all boxes and bags have reached safely

Check if everything that was loaded has been unloaded. Do it before signing the receipts.

45. Check for loss or damage



Has anything been lost during the move? Was anything damaged? If yes, make note of it and get your movers to sign on the documents, too. This will be useful when you claim your insurance.

46. Check electronic items extra carefully

Electronic items are prone to damage during the move. Check each equipment carefully.

47. Unpack the boxes

Your packers and movers will help you unpack and arrange the furniture. But you will still have to unpack your personal belongings. Don't delay this for too long. The sooner you get over with it, the better it is.

48. Set up utilities



Water supply. Electricity connection. Wi-Fi. Gas connection. Mobile connections. These are some of the most important things you will need.

49. Arrange your clothes

The first few days after moving are bound to be hectic. You might have errands to run and a lot of work inside the house, too. You will need comfortable clothes to wear. The sooner you set up your wardrobe, the better it is.

50. Update your postal address

You might need to change the address in your documents. You will also need to redirect mails from your old address to the new one.

51. Get to know your neighbours



If you haven't had the time to talk to your neighbours yet, do it now. If you're wondering how to do it, [here's an article you might find useful.](#)

52. Get to know your city

Adjusting to the new lifestyle in the new city is sure to take a while. It will certainly get simpler if you get familiar with the city you've moved to.

53. Join an expat club

Life in a foreign land would certainly get simpler if you meet similar people. Joining an expat club will give you an opportunity to meet like-minded people.

The Writer Relocations Expat Club organises cultural, entertainment and adventure activities and offers attractive membership privileges. Learn more about the [Writer Relocations Expat Club here](#).

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