Moving Out of State Checklist

Moving from _____ Moving to _____ Move date _____

8 to 12 weeks out

- [ ] Set a move date and a firm budget
- [ ] Research the new city and neighborhoods
- [ ] Get 3 quotes from FMCSA-registered movers
- [ ] Compare movers, container and truck rental
- [ ] Decide what to keep, sell, donate or toss
- [ ] Start a moving binder or folder
- [ ] Check job, lease or closing dates line up
- [ ] Tell your landlord or list your home

4 to 6 weeks out

- [ ] Book mover, truck or container in writing
- [ ] Order boxes, tape and packing paper
- [ ] Pack seasonal and rarely used items
- [ ] Request school and medical records
- [ ] Ask doctors to renew prescriptions early
- [ ] Look up new state DMV rules and deadlines
- [ ] Book time off work for packing and move day
- [ ] Plan travel: drive, fly or ship the car

2 to 3 weeks out

- [ ] File USPS mail forwarding
- [ ] Update address with bank, cards and employer
- [ ] Schedule utilities off at old, on at new
- [ ] Cancel or transfer gym and subscriptions
- [ ] Get car serviced before the long drive
- [ ] Arrange pet travel and vet records
- [ ] Confirm quote, dates and inventory with mover
- [ ] Get new-state auto insurance quote

Final week

- [ ] Use up fridge, freezer and pantry food
- [ ] Defrost freezer 48 hours before loading
- [ ] Pack a first-night essentials box
- [ ] Withdraw some cash for tips and fuel
- [ ] Finish packing 2 days before the truck
- [ ] Charge phones and pack chargers
- [ ] Say goodbyes to favorite local places
- [ ] Fill the car with gas and check tires

Moving day and the drive

- [ ] Photograph the empty home
- [ ] Keep IDs, meds and valuables with you
- [ ] Review inventory before signing
- [ ] Final walk-through of every room
- [ ] Collect all keys, remotes and access cards
- [ ] Leave keys as agreed and lock up
- [ ] Save fuel, hotel and meal receipts

First week in the new state

- [ ] Check inventory against what arrives
- [ ] Note damage on paperwork right away
- [ ] Confirm utilities and internet work
- [ ] Set up mail and check forwarding
- [ ] Test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms
- [ ] Find nearest pharmacy and urgent care
- [ ] Enroll children in school
- [ ] Unpack kitchen and beds first

First 30 to 90 days

- [ ] Get new driver's license
- [ ] Register and title the car
- [ ] Register to vote
- [ ] Switch auto, renters or home insurance
- [ ] Choose new doctor, dentist and vet
- [ ] Check state tax rules for the move year
- [ ] Update professional licenses if needed
- [ ] Cancel old-state services still billing you
- [ ]
- [ ]

Deadlines vary by state. Check your new state's DMV and election office websites for exact dates.