

# How to ensure a smooth move:

## Tips to help prepare for the big day

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The spring real estate season is in full swing, which means moving season isn't far behind. Mark and Jeni Schluentz are moving from their East Rochester home to the greater Boston area.

Whether you are moving to a new home down the street or across the country, moving can be a stressful task. There is so much to do before a move takes place that it can seem overwhelming. Marabeth Galardi, Rochester general manager for Corrigan Moving Systems, offers home buyers these essential pre- and post-moving tips and timeframes to help make the transition go smoothly.

### Pre-move tips

» Prepare your family for the move by explaining the process, as well as the highlights of your new home and city.

» Change your address with the U.S. Post Office, your employer, utilities companies and insurance agencies. If you have children, be sure to request transcripts from their current schools.

» Dispose of any unwanted or prohibited items, such as partially used paint cans, cleaning fluids and flammables.

» Pack a box of items you'll need immediately upon arriving at your new home—toiletries, kitchen basics, tools, snacks and water—and have this box packed last.

### Post-move tips

» Inspect conditions of your belongings upon arrival and make note of any changes immediately.

» Be sure to open any communications from your mover, and keep them in a safe place. You may need these documents for verification of moving expenses on your federal income tax returns.

» Check state requirements for information on auto registration and licenses.

» Transfer your records to new professional services providers, such as a physician and dentist. If you are unfamiliar with your new city, ask your previous doctor for a referral.

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— Marabeth Galardi

### Moving timeframes

» Six to eight weeks: With many moving companies reaching capacity during the spring and summer seasons, begin vetting at least three potential movers to ensure you secure a reputable company and the move date of your choice.

To determine if a company is reputable, visit the company's website to ensure it is an established business, and check various review websites, such as movingscams.com. The company should also visit the house to assess the items that need to be

moved in order to deliver an accurate quote. “Corrigan always provides a complimentary assessment with in-home estimates, which enables us to deliver an accurate quote, while also giving us the opportunity to explain the process and answer any questions,” Galardi says.

» Three to six weeks: If you wish to lighten your moving load, host a garage sale to rid yourself of items you do not wish to take to your new home. For items that do not sell, donate to a local charity of your choice. This will also decrease the cost of the move.

» One to two weeks: Begin preparing your home for the move. Start packing rooms that are used infrequently, leaving the areas used the most intact until closer to your move. Be sure to schedule an appointment with a technician to prepare your appliances at least a day before the move.

» Three days: If you have small children, arrange for a family member or friend to watch them on the day of the move.

» One day: Take care of the last-minute details. Check your closets, cabinets and cupboards for overlooked belongings.

» Move-in day: Your appliances will not be installed unless arrangements have already been made. Be sure to schedule an appointment with a technician, and confirm your appointment so that your appliances will be ready by the time you move in to your new home.