

PREPARING YOUR HOME FOR MOVING DAY

Movers, whether friends or professionals, will appreciate arriving at a home that's organized, easy (and safe) to navigate, and ready to go. Take the following steps to keep everyone safe and your home undamaged on your moving day.

PREPARING YOUR HOME FOR ITS NEW RESIDENTS

There are a few things you'll need to do to prep your home before the moving day arrives. If you're renting and your property will need to be inspected by the landlord, this part of the moving process may need to be completed sooner.

1. Take stock

Take a tour of your home and make a checklist of anything that needs to be patched, cleaned up, painted, or fixed. Document the condition of the house before the moving crew arrives, in case there is an accident and something gets damaged.



2. Fix holes in walls

Pick up some spackle or wall putty, and as you take down artwork, photographs, and other cherished items, fill in any holes you may find. If you use spackle, don't forget to sand it afterwards to ensure it's smooth.

3. Touch up paint

Touch up any chipped or peeling paint. Bathrooms are the most likely rooms for this problem because the humidity can decrease the longevity of a coat of paint. After you've patched all the holes, paint any walls that are in need of a fresh coat, even if it's just a spot touch-up.

4. Neat, clean, and organized

A thorough cleaning create a good impression for potential buyers and help you get back any security deposits, and it also helps you ensure you're not forgetting anything important. Tasks you might have missed:

- Dust for cobwebs.
- Clean the windows, inside and out.
- Vacuum, wash, and treat floors.
- Scrub the baseboards.
- Clean and wipe down kitchen appliances.
- Cut the grass.
- Remove dead branches.
- Clear any debris from walkways and the driveway.
- Scrub or power wash decks, stairs, and patio stones.

5. Remember the utilities

Call as soon as you know your move-out date and schedule the utilities to be shut off the day after your big move so you don't have to worry about loss of power or water while you're still in the house.

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6. Don't forget the entranceway

Walkways, porches, front stoops, and foyers are often neglected during home preparations for moving day. Make sure you carefully inspect the area around the front of your house for loose or cracked stones, rotted floorboards, damaged concrete, and other tripping hazards. Repair or replace any damaged sections and spot- or repaint any areas that need it.

7. Help the new owners get settled

Leave behind operating manuals, useful tips, and directions for appliances and utilities.

PREPARING YOUR MOVE FOR MOVERS

Here are some important steps you can take to make it safe for movers and to protect your home from damage:

1. Children and pets

Older kids can help out with the move, but young ones and pets are better left with a trusted friend or relative, or in a safe, secure room out of the way with someone watching them.



2. Protect your home and remove obstacles

Professional movers are well-versed at moving furniture and boxes without causing damage, but accidents do happen, so it's best to be prepared to avoid the worst. Here are some things you can do to protect both your home and your stuff:

- **Protect floors and carpets** with plastic, cardboard, newspaper, old sheets and rugs, or other protective materials to prevent scratches, dents, and exposure to dirt. Make sure it's not a slippery material.
- **Attach sheets to walls** to prevent scratches.
- **Wrap stair railings** and banisters with thick blankets.
- Install **temporary corner guards**.
- If possible, put down **non-slip treads** on stairs.
- **Remove doors from the hinges** and add padding to the frame.
- **Take down everything hanging** on the walls.
- For large items, **plan out the best possible route** in advance and discuss it with your movers before they begin.

3. Separate important items

Anything that you don't want placed on the truck should be moved into a labelled and locked room to prevent any mixups. This includes **personal documents, valuables, prized possessions, and your survival pack** of things you'll need during your transition to the new home.