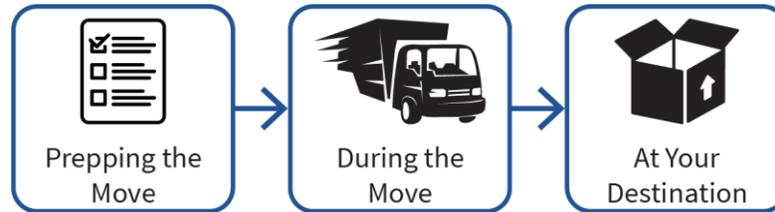


Moving Tips



Prepping the Move



Increase the likelihood of getting your preferred moving dates by moving on historically less popular days (ideally, not the summer; otherwise, choose the middle of the month).



Stay organized by creating a moving binder. Include your orders and all handouts and printouts you receive.



Guard yourself from claim disputes later on by creating your own photo inventory. Show electronics on and working and photograph the manufacturers and serial number plate.



Photograph (or video) the condition of your home on moving day before the packers arrive just in case the moving company damages your home.



Prepare drawers and toy bins for packing by placing contents in zip lock bags before the packers come. This way, smaller items are harder to lose in loose boxes.



Have quart and gallon zip lock bags on standby to collect any loose hardware during furniture disassembly.



Take a picture of the back of your TV so that you can remember how to set it up again at your new location. Include the serial number and working condition to help with claims.



If you have not opened boxes from your previous move, verify you still need the items before moving them. This is a good time to get rid of unneeded items.



Remove wall-mounted items from the walls before the packers arrive.



Block off a special “Do Not Pack” spot for any items you will need on your road trip or deem special. Make sure to clearly mark it and verify that all packers and loaders know not to include it. Consider placing these items in your car or truck.

During the Move



Plan for a playdate or childcare. Keep your kids and pets away from the commotion, if possible.



Watch your packers carefully. The better they pack, the less likely you are to have any property damaged in transit.



You do not have to put up with poor packers and/or loaders. Call your Personal Property Office immediately if either are behaving unacceptably.



Do not sign the moving company’s inventory until you understand and agree with everything listed. If you disagree, make sure you write it in the remarks section! Make sure to check any condition codes used. Some companies claim that everything is damaged.



Throw out your old toilet brush, mop head and other cleaning items that do not travel well before you move. Treat yourself to new ones in your new house.



Clean out your trash before the packers come. Do not risk packing up your trash.



Make sure your “First Day” box is one of the last items loaded on the truck. Prevent the packers from loading your in-transit luggage or any other necessities on the truck.



Empty the medicine cabinet and plan to take all prescriptions with you.



Two sets of eyes are better than one (and three better than two). Invite good friends and neighbors to your house to keep an eye on the packers.



Have the packers show you the inside of each box before they tape it. You can make additional notes on the outside describing exactly what is in there! Take a photograph of every high value item and list the serial number on the inventory.

At Your Destination



Play inspector with your new place. Document any pre-existing damage and plan where you might want your furniture to go. Take photos for future reference.



Take time to pre-clean the bathroom and kitchen.



Only unpack one box at a time. It is easier to focus and make sure you get through them all.



Make unpacking into a family game; how many boxes can each person unpack in an hour?



Assign roles to your family while the moving company is unpacking. One person can check off box numbers while the other person worries about where things will go.



Save any crates you got with your move-you should reuse them on your next move. If the moving company tries to take them, contact the local quality assurance office.



Document and report any damage to your goods as they come in the house. List the inventory number, description, and whether it was missing or damaged.



For more information,
visit move.mil/moving-guide/tips



From your Marine Corps
Personal Property Office