



7 Things to Consider While Planning Your Move

Moving can be one of the most stressful parts of transitioning between homes, but with the right preparation, the process can be much smoother. As professional property managers, we've spent decades assisting residents through move-ins and move-outs, giving us a unique perspective on what truly makes a difference.



Based on our experience, here are several important—and often overlooked—factors to keep in mind as you plan your move.

1. Who will care for your pets or dependents on moving day?

Many residents assume they need a weekend to move, but a weekday move can be far easier—especially if you already have childcare arrangements in place or someone available to watch your pets. Having dependents safely cared for reduces stress and keeps the moving environment calm and organized.

2. Where will you park your moving truck?

In busy areas, parking can make or break your moving day. Avoid scheduling your move on street-sweeping days, and check whether your city offers temporary parking or oversized-vehicle permits to reserve space in front of your home. (Long Beach residents can use the city's oversized vehicle permit system.)

3. Plan ahead for moving boxes.

You may not need to spend extra money on boxes. Local Buy Nothing groups, community exchanges, and neighborhood forums often have residents giving away moving boxes for free. Planning ahead can save both time and money.

4. Schedule your utilities in advance.

Ensure all essential utilities—especially gas, electricity, and internet—are scheduled to be turned on before you arrive. Gas appointments can sometimes take up to a week, and you don't want to spend your first days in a new home without hot water or heat.

5. Consider the flooring in your new home.

If your new place has hardwood or plank flooring, install felt pads on furniture *before* moving in. This small step can prevent scratches and save hundreds of dollars in potential floor damage charges.

6. Label your boxes clearly.

Go beyond basic labeling. Include the room they belong to and mark boxes as “**Open First**” or “**Open Last.**” Set aside a small kit of essentials—such as towels, dishes, and silverware—to finish out your old home and get through your first day in the new one. No one wants to dig through crockpots and cookie cutters just to find a bowl.



7. Keep hardware with its items.

For shelves, mounted TVs, or other wall-mounted items, use painter's tape to secure the hardware directly to the back of the item. While it may seem easier to toss all screws into one bag, matching each piece of hardware to the correct item later can be frustrating and time-consuming.