

Tips & tricks for a hassle-free move !

This checklist has been created to smooth your move. Keep in mind that in many instances your mover will be able to be of great assistance not only when it comes to the actual moving of your belongings but also with respect to country specific information !

As soon as you can ...

- Start with all official matters: gather information on how to obtain visa, work permit, residence permits when applicable. Keep in mind that these documents & procedures can take months in some countries.
- Start preparing your family AND your pets for the move.

10 weeks to go

- Make sure your own official documents (passports, driver's licences, ID) are OK.
- Start getting informed on your new destination country and consider learning some basics of the local language.
- Create a brief schedule for your move, marking the milestone events.
- Start looking for a mover...make sure he is a FIDI FAIM quality mover.

9 weeks to go

- If you have children: begin to look for an appropriate school with an international standard program to ease any further future school transfers.
- What do you want to take along ? Start to sort out your belongings. Is there anything you want to sell or donate ? Start making up lists.

8 weeks to go

- Start compiling a list of people who should be notified of your change of address.
- Start putting together an overview of magazine subscriptions, bills, permanent order payments and so on that you have.
- Start narrowing down the proposals from quality movers.

7 weeks to go

- Call the mover of your choice and arrange for a premove survey.
- Start gathering your families' medical records and make sure that everyone has the proper vaccinations (this extends to any family pets you may be taking).

6 weeks to go

- During the premove survey, after a walk through your house, your moving partner will discuss the following with you:
 - your belongings in the light of the destination laws and regulations (what stays, what goes)
 - insurance
 - customs regulations at the destination
 - the (possible) import of your car
- Start notifying the people on your list of your change of address.

5 weeks to go

- Tie up the loose ends: notify your gym, book club, library, etc that you will be moving and make arrangements accordingly.
- Start gathering items that you have borrowed from the library, friends, neighbours and begin returning them.

4 weeks to go

- Hold a garage/yard sale or donate items you no longer want to charity (or both).
- Check whether your appliances you own will be fit to use at the destination.
- Start arranging for storage (your mover will have a storage facility).
- Have any high value items appraised.
- Arrange your (and your pets) transportation to the destination.
- Request floor plans of your residence at destination.

Tips & tricks for a hassle-free move !

3 weeks to go

- Contact the utility companies (electricity, gas, telephone, cable, mobile/cell phone provider, ...) and arrange to have services terminated one day after your move.
- Notify your bank about your move and arrange for your address to be changed/your account closed etc. Also make sure that all outstanding bills are paid prior to your move and any permanent orders terminated.
- Contact an expatriate organization at your destination – they can be of help when it comes to settling in or finding clubs or interest groups.
- If you haven't been put in contact with the destination agent yet, now might be a good time to ask your mover to do so.

2 weeks to go

- Cancel any magazine subscriptions you no longer want/need and make sure you give your new address to the magazines you do want to keep receiving.
- Arrange for childcare/pet sitter for the moving day.
- Start eating perishables and food that will not be moved. Throw out/give excess away.
- Contact your post office about redirecting your mail to your new address.

1 week to go

- Make sure you have all passports, ID cards, birth certificates and other important documents in one place. Keep the spare keys to your car there as well.
- Make sure you have enough medication for two weeks after your move. Discuss your move with your doctor – they could give you some advice and sometimes even refer you to a new doctor at the new location.
- Ask your FAIM mover for stickers so that you can pre-mark which items are to go where at the destination and to clearly mark the items designated for storage—they will be more than eager to help !
- Pack necessary items for the travel to the destination and for the first couple days.
- Get some travellers cheques and local currency – they'll come in handy when you arrive at your destination !

1 day to go

- Defrost your fridge/freezer.
- Make sure you know where your important documents are and that they do not get packed.
- Make sure you have some food and beverages handy for the moving day.

Moving day

- You have to be present... your children and pets do not !
- Have a talk with the foreman of the moving crew and give him any specific instructions you may have for some items.
- Check and sign the inventory list.
- Exchange contact information with the driver and verify that the destination address is correct.
- When the house seems to be empty, check it again. Look inside the cupboards and other hiding places to make sure you haven't forgotten anything.

Delivery day

- Again, you should be present, but your children and pets do not need to be.
- The destination agent will arrange for customs clearance – keep in touch to make sure that you are available should you be required to go to the customs office personally.
- If necessary, tell the moving crew to which room the boxes should go; although this should be clear from the markings.
- Check off each item of the inventory list.
- Unpack everything and verify that all items are intact.
- Make note of any claims you need to file.

..and now you should focus on settling in and enjoy this new and exciting chapter of your life !

Need more information ? Contact : Gosselin Moving N.V. • moving@gosselingroup.eu • T : +32 / (0)3 360 55 00

