

# THE ULTIMATE CALIFORNIA MOVING CHECKLIST

Plan. Pack. Move. Settle. Your free step-by-step relocation guide from Best California Movers



# WELCOME TO YOUR SEAMLESS MOVE

Moving doesn't have to be chaos. Whether you're relocating across town or across the state, this timeline-based checklist gives you the tools to stay organized and calm! **From 8 weeks out to the first 48 hours in your new home.** Download it. Print it. Put it on your fridge.

## Need expert help?

We handle everything - from packing to last-mile delivery across California.

 **(213) 223-5593**

Best California Movers [↗](#)

### 8 Weeks Before Your Move

## — STRATEGIZE

- Book licensed California movers early
- Inventory every room: what stays, what goes, what needs special handling
- Set a realistic moving budget
- Start a digital moving binder for receipts, checklists, etc.
- Research schools, childcare, or commute options



### OVERLOOKED:

- Check your new HOA or apartment for moving restrictions or elevator rules.
- Start using up perishables and pantry items.

### 6 Weeks Before

## — SORT & SUPPLY

- Declutter: donate, sell, recycle
- Host a garage sale or sell online
- Order moving supplies: boxes, tape, stretch wrap, etc.
- Create a labeling system (color codes or box numbers)
- Schedule pre-move inspection if renting

### NOTES

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**COMMONLY FORGOTTEN:**

- Request time off work for moving days.
- Notify your doctor/dentist; transfer medical records.
- Refill and transfer prescriptions.

**4 Weeks Before****— LOGISTICS & NOTIFICATIONS**

- Change your address
- Notify employer, banks, credit card companies, IRS, DMV, etc.
- Schedule utility disconnects/reconnects (gas, electric, internet, water, etc.)
- Cancel local services: cleaning, lawn, pool
- Reserve storage if needed

**CRITICAL BUT MISSED:**

- Collect and label all house keys, fobs, remotes.
- Confirm truck parking access at both locations.
- Request school transcript transfers.
- Create a post-move to-do list.

**2 Weeks Before****— PACK INTENTIONALLY**

- Pack by room; label all box sides
- Set aside essentials (documents, meds, charger, laptop, IDs)
- Notify friends/family of your move
- Arrange childcare/pet care on moving day
- Prep car if driving long-distance (fuel, tires)
- Cancel/transfer your local memberships.

**OFTEN FORGOTTEN:**

- Update pet tags and microchips.
- Defrost freezers, this takes time, and they can leak if not done beforehand.

**NOTES**


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**1 Week Before** — **FINALIZE THE PLAN**

- Review inventory with movers
- Confirm arrival time, truck size, and phone contact
- Withdraw cash for tips or emergencies
- Pack a "First 48 Hours" Essentials Kit**

**48 HOUR ESSENTIAL KIT:**

- Change of clothing for each family member
- Toiletries: toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, soap, razor
- Towels and washcloths
- Basic kitchen tools (can opener, spatula, knife)
- Disposable plates, cups, and cutlery
- Snacks and easy-to-make meals
- Electric kettle or coffee maker
- Medications and first-aid kit
- Pet food and pet dishes
- Baby supplies: formula, bottles, diapers, wipes
- Bedding: pillows, sheets, blankets
- Toilet paper and paper towels
- Cleaning supplies: all-purpose spray, sponge, garbage bags
- Phone chargers and power banks
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Copies of important documents

**OFTEN SKIPPED:**

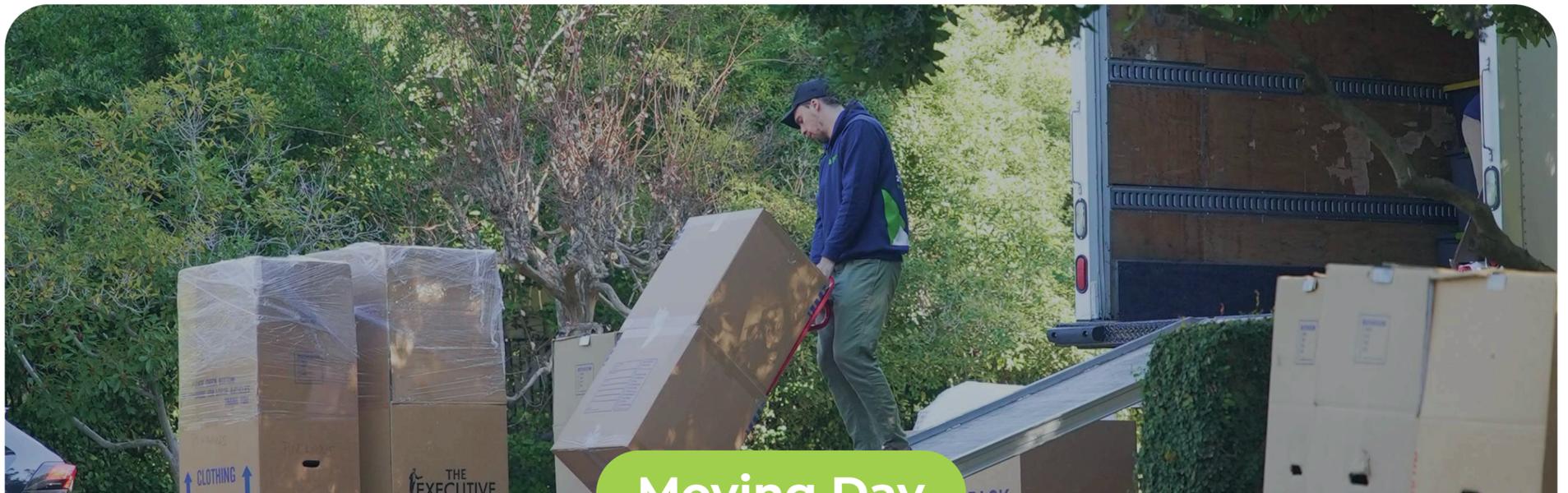
- Set up trash collection at the new address.
- Back up devices.
- Make sure someone is present for utility setup at the new home.

**NOTES**

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## Moving Day

# EXECUTE

This is it — the big day.

Whether you packed everything yourself or hired full-service movers, here's how to make sure the day runs like a machine.

### **Go room by room with two goals:**

1. Check off everything you've already packed
2. For anything left over, clearly point it out to the movers and confirm they understand how to handle it

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**FOLLOW THIS CHECKLIST TO STAY IN CONTROL:**

- Wake up early and verify everything is boxed, sealed, and labeled
- Mark and set aside your essentials bag, this doesn't go on the truck
- Group items to be packed by movers and notify them clearly (last-minute kitchenware, closet leftovers, etc.)
- Point out all fragile items and disassemblies (mirrors, artwork, mounted TVs, etc.)
- Walk through the space with the crew leader. Explain what goes, what stays, and what needs protection
- Label each room with printed signs to help movers load efficiently and for easier unloading
- Confirm items like fridge, washer, or dishwasher are disconnected and drained
- Protect floors, doorframes, and staircases with pads or blankets
- Keep hallways clear—children and pets should be kept in a closed room or offsite
- Stay nearby and be ready to answer questions, sign off on forms, and give directions
- Double-check: attic, closet shelves, under sinks, garage corners
- Photograph each cleared-out room as proof for your landlord or buyer
- Don't sign the bill of lading or inventory list until you confirm every item is on the truck

**OFTEN OVERLOOKED:**

- Movers may not move plants, chemicals, or open food—confirm this in advance
- Have a broom or vacuum for final touch-ups before locking the door

Take a deep breath — it's a long day, but the hardest part is behind you and Best California Movers is here to take the weight of your shoulders!

**NOTES**

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**After the Move** — **SETTLE IN**

- Unpack high-need areas: kitchen, bathroom, beds
- Install Wi-Fi, smoke detectors, window coverings
- Update address with DMV, insurance, etc.
- Leave a mover review to help others



**SMART EXTRAS:**

- Introduce yourself to neighbors
- Locate water shutoff, breaker box, and emergency contacts

**NOTES**

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# WHAT MOVERS CAN'T MOVE

## AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT

ITEM	WHY	WHAT TO DO
<b>Propane tanks</b>	 Fire hazard	 Use up or drop at hazardous waste center
<b>Paints/Solvents</b>	 Toxic/Hazardous	 Donate or dispose properly
<b>Plants</b>	 Interstate restrictions	 Gift or review USDA/state rules
<b>Firearms</b>	 Legal restrictions	 Use registered transport or local pickup

### DIGITAL CHECKLIST ACCESS

Want to track this checklist digitally? Access the editable Google Sheet version:

[Download Digital Checklist](#)

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# WHY CHOOSE BEST CALIFORNIA MOVERS?

This checklist gives you every step, but the *how still matters*. When you move with Best California Movers, you're getting a team that works *with your plan* — not against it.

We've built this guide from real moving experience. Every reminder, tip, and cautionary note in here comes from what our crews actually do on-site. That's what makes us different:

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**CHECKLIST-DRIVEN PROCESS**  
 Our movers follow the same timeline and logic you see in this guide for your moving day. Nothing gets missed.
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**PROFESSIONAL PACKING SUPPORT**  
 Whether you're half-packed or starting from scratch, we pack the right way: labeled, padded, and fast.
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**LICENSED & FULLY INSURED**  
 No guessing. No risk. You're protected from first box to final delivery.
- 
**TRANSPARENT QUOTES**  
 Every cost — packing, stairs, long carry — is explained before we touch a single item.
- 
**FLEXIBLE SCHEDULING**  
 Same-day, weekend, and after-hours moves? We make it work.
- 
**LOCAL EXPERTISE**  
 We know California's building codes, HOAs, traffic patterns, and permits. You don't need to worry.
- 
**RESPONSIVE CUSTOMER SUPPORT**  
 We don't disappear after booking. We confirm, check in, and follow through.

## GET AHEAD OF YOUR MOVE

Let our team make your California relocation easy, efficient, and affordable.

 **Call now: (213) 223-5593**



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