

Moving Guide

Moving is huge undertaking! You've rented the right apartment, but now you have so much to do to get ready for your move! No matter how much you plan, it always seems some small To-Do's (and sometimes large ones) get forgotten in the process. To help eliminate some of those To-Do's, Rentology gives you this Moving Guide!

Register Your Vehicle and Buy Parking Permit

Chicago's streets are a mix of permit and non-permit streets, often depending on the congestion of the area you are moving in to. To determine whether or not you will need a parking permit, and therefore a City of Chicago vehicle sticker, visit the following sites:

- Parking Permit Zone Lookup
http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/other/provdrs/clerk/svcs/parking_permit_zonelookup.html
- Accepted Proof of Residency Documentation
http://www.chicityclerk.com/residential_parking/index.html
- City of Chicago Vehicle Sticker and Residential Parking Sales
<https://webapps.cityofchicago.org/StickerOnlineWeb/pageflows/search/startOnlinePurchase.do>

Set Up Your Utilities and Service Providers

Check with your future landlord first to see if there are any instructions or restrictions when installing or setting up services with Utility Companies and Service Providers. The owner might have helpful tips or have specific information about the unit needed to start services. Also, verify that no service is prohibited, such as satellite TV.

Cable/Satellite

- RCN (Cable) - 800-746-4726
Mon, Tues & Fri 9:00am-5:00pm
Wed & Thurs: 9:00am-7:00pm
Saturday 9:00am-1:00pm
- Comcast (Cable) - 1-800-XFINITY
Open 24 Hours
- AT&T U-Verse (Cable) - 1-800-288-2020
Monday through Friday: 7:00am to 6:00pm
Saturday: 7:00am to 4:00pm CT
- DIRECTV (Dish) - 1-888-777-2454
- Dish Network - 1-800-823-4929

Electric Service

- ComEd - 1-800-EDISON-1 (1-800-334-7661)

Natural Gas Service

- Peoples Gas - 866-556-6001
Monday - Friday: 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Saturday: 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Decide whether to Employ Movers

How much stuff do you have? How much help can you find? Will friends and family be able to assist with your move or will you need more helping hands? Are you moving in or out of a place that is difficult to reach (i.e. top floor, rear unit, tight spaces, etc)? All of these things should be considered when deciding whether or not you should employ movers. If you have decided to hire movers, shop for the best price and then reserve a date as soon as possible to guarantee availability.

Decide whether you need a Rental Truck

If you will not be using movers, a Rental Truck will help you get all of your stuff from Point A to Point B. A variety of sizes of rental trucks from a variety of different companies are available. During prime moving times, trucks are in high demand. Reserve a truck as soon as you have locked in your move date to guarantee you will be ready for moving day!

Purchase or Transfer Renter's Insurance

Relatively inexpensive to purchase, Renters Insurance can often be purchase from your auto insurance provider. For a low monthly or annual cost, Renters insurance can help you purchase replacement personal goods (furniture, electronics, books, etc) in the event that results in personal property damage. Although your landlord almost certainly has property or liability insurance, your landlord's policy doesn't cover the items that you keep inside your apartment. If you already own renters insurance, don't forget to transfer your policy and inform your insurance agent of the specification of your new apartment home. Some major carriers include:

- State Farm
- Allstate
- Farmers
- American Family Insurance
- Travelers
- GEICO
- Liberty Mutual

Change Your Mailing Address

No later than one week prior to your move, contact the United States Post Office to submit a change of address and have all of your mail forwarded to your new apartment. The easiest way to change your address is to go to <https://moversguide.usps.com/> and follow the step by step instructions. Once you have changed your mailing address, make sure to notify family, friends, service providers, healthcare providers, schools and subscription services of your new address.

Start Packing

The sooner you can start packing the less stressful your move will be. When packing, start with items that are currently out of season or use. As time gets closer to your move date, more of your essential items can begin to be packed. Packing to move is also a great time to decide if you can get rid of things you don't use anymore. Clothing and household items you don't need and would be burdensome to move can be donated to charity. Make sure to label all of your boxes clearly to make unpacking an organizing easier. Emergency items and necessities should be kept track of and within easy reach. Remember "Last in, First out" when determine the order in which you will unload and unpack.

Familiarize yourself with your new neighborhood and transportation

Once you've made the tough decisions, take a little time to familiarize yourself with your new neighborhood. Learn where your nearest grocery store, pharmacy, bank, post office, school etc. are located and the easiest ways to get there. Also, if you will use public transportation frequently, get acquainted with where your nearest bus or "EL" stop are located.