

# Unpacking Checklist

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A room-by-room unpacking checklist for the first days in a new home, starting with essentials and finishing with box breakdown and admin.

## Arrival and Safety

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- ☐ Walk through the home and check for damage before unpacking
- ☐ Confirm electricity, water, heating and internet are working
- ☐ Test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms
- ☐ Find the main water shutoff and the electrical panel
- ☐ Change or rekey the locks if possible
  - Previous owners, tenants or contractors may still have keys.
- ☐ Check every box and furniture piece arrived against your inventory

## First Night

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- ☐ Unpack the first-night box: chargers, medication, toiletries and a change of clothes
- ☐ Assemble and make the beds
- ☐ Put up curtains or temporary covers in bedrooms
- ☐ Set out towels, toilet paper, soap and a shower curtain
- ☐ Keep snacks, water and basic tools within reach

## Kitchen

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- ☐ Wipe out cabinets, drawers and the fridge before filling them
- ☐ Unpack plates, cups, cutlery and one pot and pan first
- ☐ Set up the kettle, coffee maker and other daily appliances
- ☐ Store everyday items near where you use them
- ☐ Put cleaning products out of reach of children and pets

## Bathrooms

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- ☐ Clean the bathroom before unpacking
- ☐ Unpack toiletries, towels and the medicine cabinet
- ☐ Keep medications stored safely and out of reach

## Bedrooms

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- ☐ Unpack clothes for the next week first
- ☐ Hang clothes and fill drawers
- ☐ Set up the children's rooms early to help them settle

## Living Areas and Extras

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- ☐ Place large furniture before unpacking smaller items
- ☐ Set up the TV, Wi-Fi router and work-from-home desk
- ☐ Unpack books, decor and pictures last

- ☐ Sort the garage, shed and storage areas
  - ☐ Anchor tall furniture and TVs to the wall if you have children
- Tip-overs of furniture and TVs are a leading cause of home injuries to young children.

## Boxes and Admin

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- ☐ Flatten boxes as you empty them
- ☐ Check packing paper for small items before throwing it away
- ☐ Recycle, store or give away boxes and packing materials
- ☐ Note any damaged items and file mover's claims promptly
- ☐ Update your address with banks, employer, insurer and subscriptions
- ☐ Register with local services such as a doctor, dentist and vet