A RESOURCE FOR YOUR HAMILTON MOVE

HAMILTON MOVING GUIDE

A Calm, Step-by-Step Plan for Your Move

Checklists, timelines and printables to help you prepare, pack and settle in, from your first boxes to your first week in your new home.

PLAN AHEAD.
PACK WITH PURPOSE.
SETTLE IN WELL.



BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Moving is easier in small steps.

This guide walks you through your move week by week, from your first boxes to your first week in your new home. The printable checklists at the back help you keep track of the details.

> IF YOU'RE NOT SURE, ASK
>
> Timing a move around a closing date can be tricky. If you're buying or selling with me, ask, and we'll work it out together.
>
> — Mike

If you're downsizing with the 3R Method™: Reflect · Relocate · Rejoice, this guide is part of Relocate: *Plan your move calmly, one step at a time.* You don't need to be downsizing to use it. Learn about the 3R Method™

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PART 1 · ABOUT 8 WEEKS BEFORE

Get ready

Even before you have a set moving date, starting on this list will lessen what you'll have left to do right before the move, when things tend to get more hectic.

Sort first

The less you move, the less you have to pack, carry and unpack. My Decluttering Your Home guide and its Room-by-Room Checklists walk you through it one space at a time.

Take inventory and photos

Make a list of everything you are taking to your new home and take photos of your furniture and artwork.

Get quotes from moving companies

Contact two or three moving companies. Ask for a written quote based on an in-home or video walkthrough, and ask what's included and how damage is covered. Even without an exact address, quotes give you an idea of how much to budget. The Moving Company Quotes printable helps you compare them.

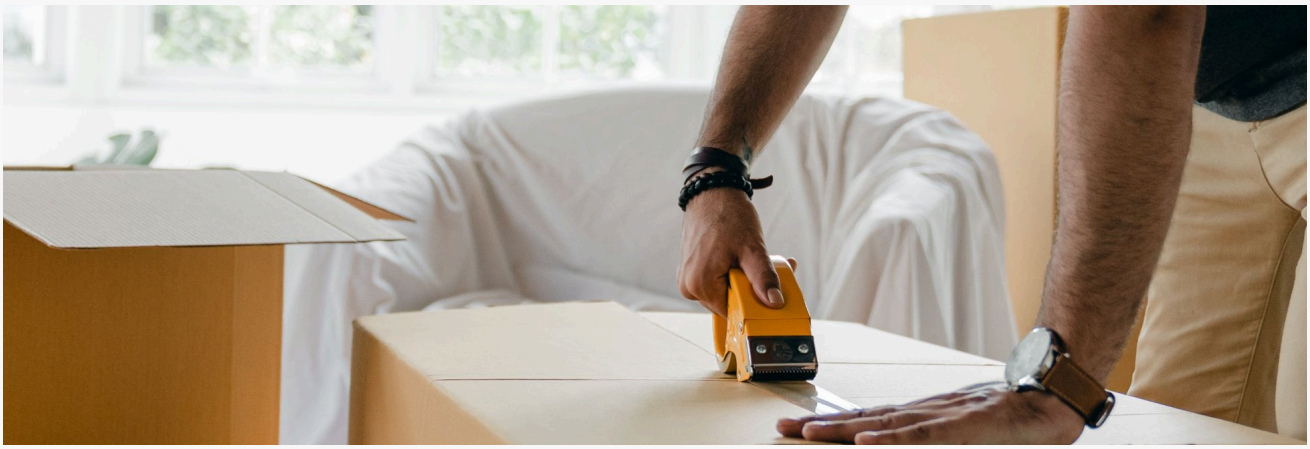
Plan your moving budget

List what your move will cost: movers or a rental truck, packing supplies, cleaning, and anything you'll need for your new home. The Moving Expenses printable lets you track your budget against what you actually spend.

> BEFORE YOU CLOSE
>
> Hold off on financing new furniture or appliances until after closing. New credit can affect your mortgage approval. See Protect Your Mortgage Approval.

Start packing

There are plenty of items around the house that can be packed ahead of time, like clothing you won't need for the next couple of months, picture frames and accessories. Packing always takes longer than you imagine, so the more you get done ahead of time, the less stressful it will be as the move gets closer.



PART 1 · PACKING TIPS

Pack smarter

Stock up on boxes

You'll need lots of boxes. Try to buy as few different sizes as possible, since more consistency makes for easier stacking, storing and moving. To save on boxes, ask local stores for spares or check Facebook Marketplace.

Clearly label boxes

Label each box with the room it goes to in your new home and a general list of what it contains, so specific items are easier to find when you move in. Number your boxes and track them on the Box Inventory printable.

Save on wrapping

Start packing fragile items by wrapping them in towels, sheets, blankets and clothes first, to save on bubble wrap and packing paper.

Make boxes stackable

Pack boxes so they stack nicely, flat on top and not bulging, to make the most of the space in the moving truck and make loading easier.

PACKING SUPPLIES CHECKLIST

- ☐ Boxes and wardrobe boxes
- ☐ Packing tape
- ☐ Box cutter
- ☐ Packing paper
- ☐ Permanent markers
- ☐ Tape dispenser
- ☐ Bubble wrap
- ☐ Mattress covers

PART 2 · ONCE YOU HAVE YOUR NEW ADDRESS AND MOVING DATE

The countdown

Four weeks before

- ☐ Book movers or reserve a moving truck
- ☐ Book a moving elevator and reserve parking for the truck, if needed
- ☐ Request time off work and arrange childcare for moving day
- ☐ Order Canada Post mail forwarding. Canada Post recommends ordering about 30 days before you move; online orders can start as soon as 5 days after you buy. It doesn't notify anyone of your new address, so use the Change of Address Checklist too.
- ☐ Arrange home insurance for your new home before closing; your lender will usually ask for proof. Tell your current insurer your moving date.
- ☐ Arrange to stop utilities at your current home and start them at your new one. In Hamilton, water is billed by the City through Hamilton Utilities Billing, electricity by Alectra Utilities and natural gas by Enbridge Gas.
- ☐ Let your children's schools know and arrange for their records to transfer. In Hamilton, that's the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board or the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board.
- ☐ Notify everyone of your new address using the Change of Address Checklist
- ☐ Keep packing everything you don't plan on using before your move
- ☐ Schedule time to see friends and family before your move

> DISPOSING OF THINGS IN HAMILTON
>
> Paint, batteries, propane and other household hazardous waste go to a City of Hamilton Community Recycling Centre, not the garbage. For furniture and other large items you're leaving behind, book a City bulk item pickup: call 905-546-2489 at least a week ahead; up to four items are collected per pickup. Check current rules at hamilton.ca or on my Hamilton Home Resources page.

Two weeks before

- ☐ Plan meals to use up the remaining food in the fridge, freezer and pantry
- ☐ Complete any remaining home repairs
- ☐ Deep clean as much as possible
- ☐ Make sure your pets have ID tags and are current on their vaccinations
- ☐ Transfer or cancel gym, club and other memberships
- ☐ Gather important documents you don't want packed, in case you need them during the move

One week before

- ☐ Pack everything except your essentials
- ☐ Pack your Moving Day Essentials box (see the printable)
- ☐ Drain equipment like lawn mowers and edgers, as well as water hoses
- ☐ Dispose of any hazardous and flammable items (see Disposing of things in Hamilton)
- ☐ Return any rented equipment or borrowed items
- ☐ Call a locksmith to set up an appointment for your new home
- ☐ Fill prescriptions and pet medications

Two days before

- ☐ If your fridge is coming with you, empty it and defrost it at least 24 hours before your move. Check your agreement; appliances listed as included stay with the house.
- ☐ Double-check all cabinets and closets to make sure none of your belongings are left inside. Don't forget to check inside appliances as well.
- ☐ Pack all remaining loose items



PART 3 · CLOSING AND MOVING

Closing day and moving day

Closing day

On closing day, the lawyers complete the transfer of funds and documents. Keys are usually released once that's done, which can be later in the day. Ask your lawyer what to expect, and book your movers with some flexibility. If you're selling, have the home empty and the keys ready as your agreement sets out.

Moving day

- ☐ Cover your floors if they need to be protected
- ☐ Keep pets in a safe area where they'll be least stressed
- ☐ Make sure your Moving Day Essentials are gathered together
- ☐ Leave owner manuals for appliances and anything else that stays with the house
- ☐ Photograph the water, hydro and gas meter readings at both homes, to check against your final and first bills

Before leaving the house, be sure:

- ☐ All windows and doors are shut and locked
- ☐ Lights are turned off
- ☐ Thermostat is at an appropriate level
- ☐ Garbage is taken out
- ☐ House is clean, or a cleaning service is scheduled
- ☐ Keys, garage remotes, codes and manuals are left as agreed
- ☐ You've done a final walkthrough and nothing is left behind



PART 4 · SETTLING IN

Your first week

- ☐ Rekey or change the locks
- ☐ Test the smoke and carbon monoxide alarms
- ☐ Find the main water shut-off and the electrical panel
- ☐ Update your driver's licence and vehicle permit within 6 days, and your health card within 30 days, through ServiceOntario
- ☐ Unpack your Moving Day Essentials and the kitchen first
- ☐ Give yourself time to settle in

RELATED RESOURCES

Decluttering Your Home →

Hamilton Home Buyer's Guide →

Hamilton Home Seller's Guide →

Protect Your Mortgage Approval →

Cost to Buy a Home in Hamilton →

The 3R Method™ →

PRINTABLE

Moving day essentials

Pack these in a box or bag that travels with you, not on the truck.

GENERAL ITEMS

- [ ] Phone chargers
- [ ] Computers and chargers
- [ ] Important documents
- [ ] Medications
- [ ] First aid kit
- [ ] Clothes for several days

KITCHEN AND BATH

- [ ] Toiletries
- [ ] Towels
- [ ] Sheets and blankets
- [ ] Hand soap and dish soap
- [ ] Toilet paper and paper towels
- [ ] Cleaning supplies and rags
- [ ] Garbage bags

KIDS

- [ ] Toys, games and books
- [ ] Bedtime essentials
- [ ] Bottles and sippy cups
- [ ] Diaper bag

FOOD AND BEVERAGES

- [ ] Bottled water
- [ ] Coffee and drinks
- [ ] Snacks
- [ ] Disposable dishes, cups and utensils

MOVING NECESSITIES

- [ ] Scissors or box cutter
- [ ] Tool set and drill
- [ ] Step stool
- [ ] Door stopper
- [ ] Tape measure
- [ ] Light bulbs

PETS

- [ ] Food and water bowls
- [ ] Food and medications
- [ ] Leash, litter box and other supplies

PRINTABLE

Change of address checklist

My new address is _____

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

- [ ] Canada Post mail forwarding
- [ ] Canada Revenue Agency
- [ ] Service Canada
- [ ] Elections Canada
- [ ] ServiceOntario: driver's licence and vehicle permit (within 6 days)
- [ ] ServiceOntario: health card (within 30 days)

INSURANCE

- [ ] Home or tenant insurance
- [ ] Car insurance
- [ ] Health and dental insurance
- [ ] Life insurance

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

- [ ] Banks
- [ ] Credit cards
- [ ] Investments
- [ ] Loan companies
- [ ] Student loans

UTILITIES AND SERVICES

	CANCEL CURRENT	SET UP NEW
Hydro	☐	☐
Water and sewer	☐	☐
Gas	☐	☐
Telephone	☐	☐
Internet provider	☐	☐
Cable provider	☐	☐
Home security	☐	☐
Cleaning service	☐	☐
Pest control	☐	☐
Lawn service	☐	☐
Pool maintenance	☐	☐

COMMUNITY

- [ ] Family and friends
- [ ] Employers
- [ ] Schools
- [ ] Doctor, dentist and pharmacy
- [ ] Condo board
- [ ] Memberships

PRINTABLE

Moving company quotes

Ask each company for a written quote, and ask what's included and how damage is covered.

	QUOTE 1	QUOTE 2	QUOTE 3
Company name			
Contact person			
Phone / email			
Date contacted			
In-home consultation?	Yes ☐ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐
Consultation date			
Truck rental	$	$	$
Movers	$	$	$
Mileage fee	$	$	$
Packing	$	$	$
Unpacking	$	$	$
Car transport	$	$	$
Insurance	$	$	$
Quote total	**$**	**$**	**$**
Coverage options			
Notes			

PRINTABLE

Moving expenses

TYPE OF EXPENSE	BUDGET	ACTUAL
Movers or rental truck	$	$
Packing supplies	$	$
Cleaning	$	$
	$	$
	$	$
	$	$
	$	$
	$	$
	$	$
	$	$
	$	$
	$	$
	$	$
	$	$
	$	$
	$	$
	$	$
	$	$
	$	$
	$	$
Total	**$**	**$**

PRINTABLE

Box inventory

BOX #	ROOM	CONTENTS

PRINTABLE

Important dates and notes

Month _____

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT

DATES TO NOTE Closing date · Movers booked · Mail forwarding starts · Utilities off and on · Keys

NOTES



QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR MOVE?

One step at a time, you'll get there

Whether you're just starting to sort or counting down to closing day, I'm happy to help you think through your move.

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MIKE MCCARTHY, REALTOR® · REAL BROKER ONTARIO LTD.

This guide provides general information only and is not legal, financial, tax or mortgage advice. Programs, rules and costs change; confirm details for your situation with the appropriate professionals. Not intended to solicit clients already under contract with a brokerage.