

The First 30 Days: Your Relocation Game Plan

Utilities & DMV Setup Checklist

- Set up electric, water, gas, and internet service before move-in day.
- Update your address with USPS, your bank, and subscription services.
- Schedule your DMV appointment early – licenses and vehicle registration can take time.
- Set up waste collection and recycling schedule with your new city or county office.

3 Ways to Shortlist Neighborhoods

Choosing the right area goes beyond price — it ' s about lifestyle. Here ' s how to narrow your list:

- ****Commute:**** Time your route to work or school during rush hour to test real-world drive times.
- ****Schools:**** Compare local district ratings and parent reviews; visit schools if possible.
- ****Vibe:**** Walk the neighborhood at different times of day. Do you feel safe? Do people connect outside?

Rent-First vs Buy-Now: Timelines & Gotchas

If you ' re moving from out of town, renting first can be a smart way to learn the area — but it ' s not for everyone:

- ****Rent-First Pros:**** Flexibility, no rush to buy, and time to explore.
- ****Rent-First Cons:**** Money spent on rent doesn ' t build equity, and leases may limit timing flexibility.
- ****Buy-Now Pros:**** You lock in your rate, start building equity immediately, and can customize your space.
- ****Buy-Now Cons:**** Less flexibility if you don ' t know the neighborhoods well yet.

5 Rookie Mistakes Newcomers Make (and How to Avoid Them)

- 1 1 ****Skipping Pre-Approval:**** Always get pre-approved before house hunting to avoid surprises.
- 2 2 ****Underestimating Closing Costs:**** Budget an extra 2 – 5% of the home price for closing expenses.
- 3 3 ****Forgetting About Property Taxes & Insurance:**** These can vary widely by area — don ' t rely on online averages.
- 4 4 ****Ignoring the Commute:**** A short distance can take longer than expected during local rush hours.
- 5 5 ****Buying Sight-Unseen:**** Use video tours, but always schedule an in-person visit before closing.

Moving Tip:

Start your relocation checklist 30 days before your move. Staying organized will make your transition smoother and less stressful.