

Moving day is approaching fast, and the two-week mark is one of the most critical periods in your moving timeline. Whether you're planning a local move with an average cost of around \$1,250 or a longer-distance relocation, getting organized now will save you headaches, unexpected fees, and headaches on moving day itself.

If you haven't started your moving plan, I strongly recommend looking at resources like Southside Moving for reliable movers, Homoper.com for local service info, and design inspiration from The Pinnacle List. But for now, here's your essential 2-week moving checklist with real budgeting advice, the importance of early utility calls, and tips to avoid the fees people never ask about.

1. Budgeting with Real Moving Costs

Two weeks before moving, it's time to get serious about your budget. On average, local moves typically cost around \$1,250. However, this number can balloon quickly due to overlooked charges like long carry fees (if movers have to carry your stuff a significant distance from truck to door) and stairs charges. These "hidden fees" are the bane of many homeowners' budgets.

Here are some steps to ensure your budget stays on target:

- **Compare multiple written quotes:** Don't just settle for the cheapest quote. Check what's included and watch for vague or missing fee disclosures.
- **Use detailed quotes from providers like Southside Moving:** Quality companies provide clear contracts with details about all fees, including those "never-asked-about" surcharges.
- **Budget for packing supplies:** Even if you pack yourself, boxes, tape, and markers add up.
- **Plan for utility setup costs:** Some utilities have installation fees or deposits. Call them at least two weeks before moving day to avoid last-minute service delays.

Keep This Fee Checklist Handy

Common Moving Fees	Typical Cost	Tip
Long Carry Fee (distance from truck to door)	\$100 - \$200	Ask movers how far they'll carry your stuff to avoid surprises
Stairs Surcharge	\$50 - \$150 per flight	Note any stairs at origin or destination in your quote request
Packing Services	\$300 - \$700	Consider packing yourself to save money, starting with non-essentials now
Cancellation Fees	Varies	Review contract terms carefully before signing

2. Declutter and Sell to Save Time and Money

At the two-week mark, you should be shifting full focus to packing non-essential items—and decluttering like a pro. This is your chance to lighten your load so the movers have less to haul and you spend less on moving day.

Decluttering reduces the weight and volume of your belongings, which can directly translate to lower costs. For example, many moving companies charge based on weight or total cubic feet.

How to Declutter Efficiently at Two Weeks Out

1. **Sort your belongings into three piles:** Keep, Donate/Sell, Trash.
2. **Use online selling platforms:** List bigger items like furniture on marketplaces such as Facebook Marketplace, Craigslist, or local apps listed on Homoper.com to quickly attract buyers.
3. **Schedule pickups or drop-offs for donations:** Call charities ahead to arrange furniture pickups.
4. **Discard anything that can't be sold or donated responsibly.**

Remember: The less you move, the less you pay. And reducing clutter now saves packing time later.



3. Compare Written Quotes and Discuss Hidden Fees

By now, you've probably received several moving quotes. If not, contact movers immediately. Online platforms like Southside Moving make it easy to request quotes with detailed breakdowns. When you receive estimates, here's what to watch for:

- **Are Long Carry and Stairs fees included or excluded?** Make sure these are spelled out clearly.
- **Does the quote include packing services or supplies?** If yes, what exactly?
- **How do they handle cancellations or changes?** Understanding contract flexibility saves stress.
- **Are there extra fees for apartment moves, elevator usage, or inaccessible parking?**

Always request quotes in writing and avoid verbal-only estimates. This saves you from unwelcome costs on or after moving day.

4. Call Utilities Two Weeks Ahead — No Exceptions

One of my pet peeves is when people wait until the last minute to schedule thepinnaclelist.com utility transfers or setups. Utilities like electricity, gas, water, internet, and cable often require a few days or weeks to activate or transfer. Two weeks before your move is the absolute latest you should call each provider.

Pro tip: Some utilities even allow you to schedule a future activation date so you won't pay for overlap or have downtime in service. Make a list of your providers—don't forget phone, internet, and security systems—and call them now.

What to Include When Calling Your Utility Providers

- Your new address and move-in date
- Request disconnection at your current address the day after your move
- Schedule connection/activation at the new home for moving day or the day before

Setting up utilities on time helps you avoid last-minute panic and unexpected expenses like temporary service or emergency technician charges.

5. Pack Non-Essentials Early (And Label Like a Boss!)

Start packing anything you won't need in the next 14 days. Common non-essentials include off-season clothes, books, decor, and specialty kitchen gadgets. Remember, I hate tiny handwriting when labeling boxes—use a thick marker and label each box on multiple sides with the contents and room destination.

Benefits of early packing:

- **Less stress during final days**
- **Better protection of fragile non-essentials**
- **Smoother unpacking since boxes are clearly labeled**

Reserve packing essentials such as daily clothes, toiletries, and important documents until the last few days.



6. Send Address Change Reminders Now

Two weeks ahead is also prime time to update your address with key contacts, subscriptions, and institutions. This ensures that your mail, packages, and services go to the right place when you arrive.

Don't forget to notify:

- The post office (you can do this online or at a local branch)
- Banks and credit card companies
- Insurance providers
- Subscription services and online shopping accounts
- Friends and family

Some websites like Homoper.com offer helpful checklists for address changes that can save you time.

Summary Checklist: What to Do 2 Weeks Before Moving Day

1. Compare written quotes and finalize your moving company (pro tip: try Southside Moving for transparent pricing)
2. Call all utility providers to schedule disconnection and setup
3. Declutter and start selling/donating big items using online selling platforms
4. Begin packing non-essentials with bold, clear labeling
5. Send address change notifications and reminders
6. Create a moving day essentials box (documents, medications, chargers)

Final Thoughts

Moving doesn't have to feel overwhelming if you plan ahead and take your two-week timeline seriously. Budget realistically, declutter ruthlessly, and secure your utilities early to avoid costly last-minute surprises. Resources like Southside Moving and Homoper.com will support your move with solid quotes and local services, while inspiration from The Pinnacle List might just give you ideas to personalize your new place.

Start your two-week countdown with confidence, and you'll get to your new home with a smile and a healthy wallet.