

Moving day is thrilling, overwhelming, and—if you're not prepared—full of unexpected surprises. If you're sitting 4 weeks away from your relocation, you're at a critical planning stage. With the right actions, you can save money, reduce last-minute stress, and ensure your big day goes smoothly. In this guide, we'll walk through exactly what you should be doing 4 weeks before moving day, including budgeting, decluttering, getting quotes, and notifying essential parties.

Your 8-Week Moving Timeline Snapshot

While you're focusing on the 4-week mark now, it helps to remember how your timeline should flow:

1. **8 weeks before:** Research moving companies, start budgeting, and create your initial to-do list.
2. **6 weeks before:** Begin decluttering and selling unneeded items, start gathering packing supplies.
3. **4 weeks before:** Confirm movers, notify schools and subscriptions, finalize utility plans, and update important addresses.
4. **2 weeks before:** Start packing non-essentials, notify bank and healthcare providers.
5. **1 week before:** Pack essentials, prepare your moving day kit, confirm final moving details.
6. **Moving day:** Oversee the move, provide tips to movers, and do a final walkthrough.

You're in the thick of phase three. Now, let's dig into the specifics.

Step 1: Budget Realistically and Compare Quotes

A common frustration in moving is sticker shock. Many people figure out their move cost last minute or rely on vague advice like "it should be around \$1,000" without digging deeper. Let's get real.

The Southside Moving website points out that the average local move in many US cities costs about \$1,250. That includes a typical two-bedroom apartment and a standard crew with a truck.

But moving isn't just about that flat fee. You need to:

- Request detailed written quotes from multiple movers—including local companies and others on trusted platforms like Homoper.com.
- Compare the quotes carefully, looking beyond just the bottom line.
- Ask explicitly about hidden fees that most people forget to check, such as:
 - **Long carry fees:** For movers walking a long distance from truck to door.
 - **Stairs fees:** If you live in a walk-up or multi-story home without elevator access.
 - **Packing materials:** Sometimes included, sometimes extra.
 - **Cancellation charges, or delays:** What happens if your move changes?

To get your numbers straight, make these phone calls now. Confirm every cost and get it on paper. Nothing's more annoying than a \$200 surprise fee on moving day.

Tip: Use resources like The Pinnacle List to read reviews and find curated lists of reputable moving companies to narrow down trustworthy providers.

Step 2: Declutter to Reduce Cost and Stress

Decluttering is your secret weapon for cutting down moving expenses. Packers charge based on weight and volume, usually. Selling or donating items means fewer boxes, lighter loads, and a cheaper move. Plus, fewer items to unpack in your new place is a win.

Here's how to approach decluttering 4 weeks out:

1. **Go room by room:** Focus on one area at a time to avoid overwhelm.
2. **Sort into three piles:** Keep, Sell, Donate.
3. **List higher-value items on online selling platforms:** Think larger electronics, furniture, or collectibles you no longer want.
4. **Schedule donations or pickups:** Charities often require advance notice.

Efficiency is key here. The earlier you sell big items, the better your chances of getting a fair price and [tv cable setup photo](#) saving money on the move.

Step 3: Notify Schools, Update Subscriptions, and Change Bank Addresses

Don't forget to start ticking off your important notifications. Four weeks before moving is prime time to:

- **Notify schools:** If you or your kids are changing schools, notify current schools to request transfer papers and inform new schools of enrollment timelines.
- **Update subscription services:** Magazines, meal kits, deliveries—you want those arriving at your new address, not your old one.
- **Change bank address:** Some banks require 2-4 weeks to update your mailing address and process statements correctly.

Most of these can be started with quick phone calls or online account management. Set reminders if your timeline feels overwhelming.

Step 4: Utilities and Service Providers

I always schedule utilities to be turned on at your new home at least two weeks out—no exceptions. Call soon to avoid delays.

1. Contact electricity, gas, water, internet, and cable providers to schedule start/transfer dates.
2. Consider new providers if moving to a new area that supports better or cheaper options.
3. Keep records of account numbers and confirmation emails.

Starting this early means you won't arrive to a dark, chilly, or offline house.

Step 5: Finalize Your Moving Company and Confirm Details

By this point, you should have solid quotes and a preferred moving company—or several to compare. Call your chosen mover:

- Confirm your exact moving date and time.
- Discuss specific needs like stairs, elevators, parking permits, or long carry requirements to minimize fees.
- Double-check packing service options if you're opting for partial or full packing help.

Ask your mover if they provide any special tips or requirements based on your building or neighborhood in advance.



Bonus: Labeling and Packing Supplies

While packing typically starts 2 weeks in, now is a good time to **order boxes and supplies**. Pro tip: buy a thick black marker for labeling. Tiny handwriting is hard to read and slows down unpacking. Label boxes clearly with room names and brief contents.

Sample Budget Table for a Typical Local Move

Category	Price Estimate	Notes
Base Moving Cost	\$1,250	Average local move (2-bedroom)
Long Carry Fee	\$100 - \$200	Check if your move has long distance from truck to door
Stairs Fee	\$75 - \$150	For each flight of stairs
movers must carry items		
Packing Materials	\$50 - \$150	Boxes, tape, bubble wrap; varies by quantity
Utility Transfer		

Fees \$0 - \$100 Varies by provider, some waive fees if scheduled early Miscellaneous Purchases \$50 - \$100 New address changes, subscriptions, small moving supplies

Totals will vary based on your situation, but this gives a solid framework.

Summary: Your 4-Week Moving To-Do List

- Obtain and compare detailed written mover quotes avoiding hidden fees.
- Begin dedicated decluttering and selling via online platforms to lower move weight.
- Notify schools about transfers and update all important mailing addresses and subscriptions.
- Schedule utility connections and disconnections for your new and current homes.
- Confirm all moving company details and start gathering packing supplies.

By tackling these steps four weeks before moving day, you cut large chunks of last-minute chaos and keep your moving budget intact.

Remember, planning and communication are your best friends. Use tools like Southside Moving and Homoper.com to find trustworthy movers and check out The Pinnacle List for expert-curated recommendations.

Start now with clear goals, and you'll thank yourself when moving day finally arrives!