

Moving day can be an exciting yet stressful milestone, especially when budgeting and planning are involved. One of the most overlooked—and important—steps in a smooth move is deciding what to **donate before moving day**. Not only does donating help you lighten your load, but it also reduces moving costs and benefits your community.

In this comprehensive guide, we'll walk through what to donate, how to plan your move using smart tools, understanding the real costs involved, and preparing your home with an 8-week timeline. Plus, we'll mention trusted companies like Southside Moving, Homoper.com, and resources like The Pinnacle List to help streamline your move.

Why Donate Before Moving?

Donating is more than just a feel-good activity—it's a critical part of moving well. When you **donate clothes before move** or give away **kitchen tools** you no longer need, you:

- Reduce the total weight and volume of your belongings, translating to lower moving costs.
- Make unpacking and organizing your new home easier.
- Support charitable causes and reduce waste.
- Potentially avoid hidden or surprise fees charged by moving companies.

Real Moving Costs and Budgeting

The average local move costs around **\$1,250**, but this number can fluctuate based on distance, weight, labor, and hidden fees. Many homeowners overlook charges such as long carry fees, stairs, or bulky item handling, which can significantly increase cost.

Companies like Southside Moving provide written quotes that include insurance and service details—always compare multiple written estimates. Don't rely solely on verbal quotes or vague pricing; hidden fees are one of my personal pet peeves!

Tools to Help You Budget and Sell

Before moving, it's a smart idea to explore online selling platforms like Craigslist, Facebook Marketplace, or apps such as OfferUp for bigger items you don't want to donate but could sell instead. These platforms allow you to turn unwanted furniture, electronics, or appliances into extra cash to offset your moving expenses.

Additionally, make phone calls to service providers, movers, and utility companies to confirm timelines, fees, and schedule installations or shut-offs ahead of time. I always recommend scheduling utility transfers at least two weeks before moving day with no exceptions to avoid last-minute stress.

What to Donate Before Moving Day

Focus your decluttering efforts on items that are low-value but take up space or heavy to transport. Here's a <https://www.thepinnaclelist.com/articles/10-things-homeowners-should-do-before-moving-day/> handy checklist to get you started:



1. Donate Clothes Before Move

- Seasonal garments you haven't worn in over a year
- Children's clothes that no longer fit
- Old shoes and accessories
- Worn or damaged items beyond repair (recycling options apply)

2. Donate Kitchen Tools

- Duplicate utensils and gadgets that clutter drawers
- Extra plates, cups, or mismatched sets
- Small appliances you rarely use, e.g., bread makers or slow cookers
- Expired or nearly empty spice jars (dispose of properly when possible)

3. Declutter Donations Beyond Clothes and Kitchen

- Books, magazines, and media you no longer need
- Furniture that won't fit or match your new space
- Toys and games your family has outgrown or no longer play with
- Decor and art pieces that don't suit your new home style

8-Week Moving Timeline with Decluttering in Mind

Week Moving Task Tip 8 Weeks Out Start sorting belongings and separate items to donate, sell, or keep. Set aside boxes for donations and label them with a thick marker (tiny handwriting annoys me!). 7 Weeks Out Request written moving quotes from at least three companies, including Southside Moving. Ask about potential hidden fees like stairs or long carry charges. 6 Weeks Out Begin listing or posting large items on online selling platforms. Schedule pick-up or drop-off for donations at local charities. 5 Weeks Out Notify utility providers and schedule transfers or cancellations. Make phone calls to confirm account dates. No exceptions on the two-week window. 4 Weeks Out Continue packing non-essential items and finalizing decluttering. Keep track of items donated and sold for tax deductions or budgeting. 3 Weeks Out Confirm moving date and details with your selected mover. Revisit quotes if any new belongings have been added or removed. 2 Weeks Out Begin packing essentials and valuables separately. Label boxes clearly with contents and room destination. 1 Week Out Prepare moving day kit (documents, chargers, snacks). Reconfirm utilities and mover arrival times. Moving Day Be present with your movers and provide clear instructions. Keep donation receipts handy.

Final Thoughts: Declutter Donations are a Win-Win

Moving is naturally expensive and stressful, but smart planning can save you time, headaches, and money. Donating unwanted items like clothes, kitchen tools, and household goods not only reduces your moving weight—lowering costs—but also benefits those in need.

Remember to get several detailed quotes from movers, such as Southside Moving, use online selling platforms to earn cash when possible, and stick to an organized timeline. Resources like Homoper.com and The Pinnacle List also offer valuable advice on local moving providers and home prep strategies.

If you want to keep moving costs near the average local move price of **\$1,250** or less, decluttering thoughtfully is your best bet—no vague advice or winging it allowed!