Moving Preparation Checklist

Moving Clearly | Interstate move planning
This checklist is an educational planning aid, not legal advice or a promise about a mover's price or delivery date. Review your documents and ask the mover to confirm unclear terms in writing.

Compare the estimate on the same basis

- Check that each estimate describes the same rooms, boxes, bulky items, and special-handling needs.
- Note the stated pricing basis and the inventory or inspection details used to prepare it.
- Mark items or services that appear in one estimate but not another; an unlisted charge is not necessarily included or free.

Confirm what is included and what may cost extra

- Ask whether packing, materials, crating, disassembly, or specialty-item handling is included.
- Ask how stairs, elevators, restricted access, a shuttle, long carries, or storage are treated in the estimate.
- Ask what change in inventory or conditions could change the amount and how a change will be documented.

Read payment, cancellation, and valuation terms

- Locate the deposit and payment schedule, accepted payment methods, and any balance-due instructions.
- Find the cancellation and change terms in the documents you received.
- Review the valuation or protection option described by the mover and ask what it covers.

Prepare for pickup access

- Reconcile the shipment inventory with what will actually be moved, including storage areas and items added later.
- Ask whether a 26-foot box truck can safely and legally park within 75 feet of the entrance the movers will use at pickup.
- Confirm the vehicle, parking rules, measurement, and any related charges with the mover in writing.

Plan around the delivery window

- Write down the delivery date or range stated in your documents and identify who will send updates.
- Ask whether destination access, parking restrictions, stairs, or elevator reservations affect delivery services or charges.
- Ask whether a 26-foot box truck can safely and legally park within 75 feet of the entrance the movers will use at delivery.
- Confirm the delivery vehicle, parking rules, measurement, and any related charges in writing. Box-truck access does not establish tractor-trailer access.

Questions to send your mover

- Which inventory and pricing basis does this estimate use?
- Which requested services are included, and what conditions could add charges?
- How are deposits, balance payments, changes, cancellation, and valuation described in my documents?
- What vehicle and access conditions do you expect at pickup and delivery?
- What delivery window and update process should I plan around?