

# GUIDE FOR MOVING IN AND OUT OF YOUR HOME



**SMO**



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## Guide for Moving In and Out of Your Home

Moving is an exciting time in many people's lives, but it can also be stressful if you've never done it before and don't know what to expect. People move for many reasons, whether to relocate for a job or a new school system, to find a bigger space for a growing family, or to change scenery. Whatever your reason is for moving, it's always best to be prepared.

In this guide to moving, you'll learn about how you can prepare yourself and your family for a seamless move, helping reduce stress and increasing the chances of a successful move.

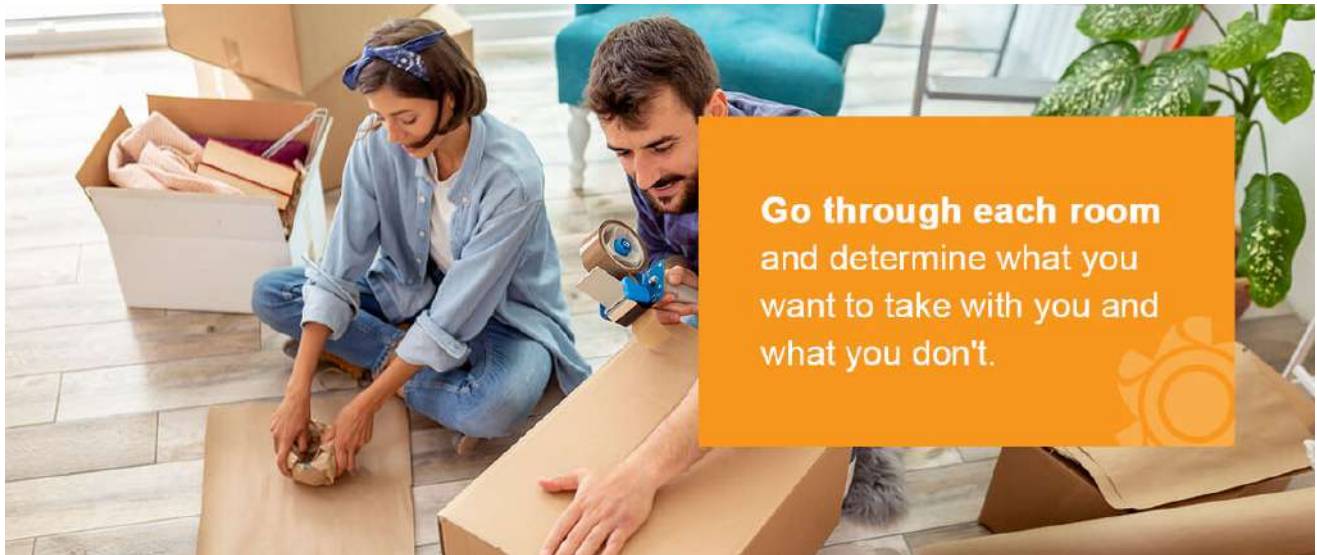
### When Should You Start Preparing to Move?

Before you move, it's best to prepare so nothing takes you by surprise and you have plenty of time to pack and make other arrangements. Ideally, you'll want to start your preparation for moving at least two months in advance. These two months will give you adequate time to declutter and clean while leaving enough time to pack. You can even consider making a moving timeline outlining specific events so you don't feel rushed or underprepared. The sooner you start planning, the more prepared you'll be.

## How to Prepare for a Move

Preparing for a move takes time and effort. Use the following tips to prepare for a move and ensure you have plenty of time and resources to make the necessary arrangements:

- **Create a timeline and schedule:** While moving day is often a single-day event, other aspects of your move will span over multiple days of weeks, such as packing, organizing and budgeting. Creating a timeline helps you determine when to get everything organized and packed, reducing stress and helping you meet your move-out deadline. You should set aside at least a day to handle each room to ensure you can declutter, organize and pack. Once you know your timeline, you can create your budget.
- **Calculate your moving budget:** Moving requires different expenses, such as boxes, bubble wrap, tape and moving services. Planning your budget can prevent it from impacting your moving timeline. Working with a moving service can quicken your move, but it can be expensive. Moving everything yourself is more cost-effective but generally takes more time. Consider the pros and cons so you know how much to budget for in advance.
- **Contact a moving company or reserve a moving truck rental:** If you want help moving your things, contact a moving company ahead of time to ensure you can move out on the date you want. If you're handling the move yourself, you'll likely still want to rent a moving truck, so reserve one early.
- **Downsize or declutter your belongings:** Packing everything you own is a hefty task, made even more difficult when you have items you don't want or need. Moving is an excellent opportunity to downsize or declutter. Go through each room and determine what you want to take with you and what you don't. You can donate items that are still in good condition and dispose of other things appropriately.



**Go through each room**  
and determine what you  
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what you don't.

- **Start packing:** Finally, you can start packing. Take each room one by one and label the boxes as you pack so it's easier to unpack once you move into your new place. Create a list of everything you want to take from each room and check them off as you put them in boxes or other containers. Remember to invest in bubble wrap so you can protect your valuables. You may also want to set aside a bag to pack your first-night essentials so you don't have to open boxes on your first day in your new home after a long day of moving.

Preparing for a move is an essential step in reducing stress. You can streamline your move using the tips above, making it a simple and easy process.

## What You'll Learn in This Guide

Preparing for a move takes time and effort, but it's an excellent way to reduce stress and help you move seamlessly from your old home to somewhere new. In this guide to moving out, you'll learn about the different ways you can prepare for a move, including what to pack, how to pack and what you might need in your new home. We'll also cover renovations to consider making in your new home and ways you can save when making upgrades. There are many things to consider when buying a new home, and we want to help you streamline the process.

SMO Energy is here to make moving as easy as possible. Our mover's program can

help you during this transition, whether you're a current client relocating to a new home or a first-time homeowner. If you will use heating oil and propane or require HVAC services in your new home, get in touch with us today to learn more about how we can help facilitate a successful move!



Creating a moving checklist can help you track what to do when moving out and streamline your moving process. You have to prepare for a move, including finding a new place, calculating your costs, packing your belongings and transferring your utilities, to name a few. This chapter covers the necessary steps for moving, a packing timeline and a moving-out checklist to help you be as prepared as possible.

## Steps to Moving Out

Once you decide to move, set aside two to three months for preparation to ensure you can complete all the necessary steps for a seamless move. Here are some basic steps to moving out to help you prepare for your transition to a new home:

### 1. Find a Home or Apartment

Finding the perfect home for yourself and your family takes time, so you want to start looking at least three months in advance to give yourself time to find a good place and pack. Moving can take longer if you're buying a home rather than renting an apartment because you'll need to find a real estate agent, save for closing costs, shop for suitable mortgage rates and find a location you genuinely love.

However, renters will still need to take some time to narrow down their choices to find a quality neighborhood and the features that they want. Thinking through these factors ahead of time can prevent you from developing buyer's or renter's remorse.

### 2. Notify Your Landlord or Find a Landlord

If you're renting your current place, you'll need to notify your landlord that you're planning to move. In most areas, you need to let your landlord know at least 30 days in advance, but it's best to check your lease to learn how soon you need to put in a written notice.

If you own your home, you'll want to find a real estate agent at least three months before your planned move. This timeline will allow you to interview potential real estate agencies so you can choose one you like and trust to sell your current home. You'll also have time to increase your home's value.



### 3. Calculate Your Packing and Moving Costs

Creating a budget for packing and moving costs gives you plenty of time to save, helping reduce your financial stress as you plan your move. Having time to save will also allow you to cover costs you may not have expected from the start. Your calculations should include the following:

- Moving trucks rental fees and gas
- Professional moving services
- Packing materials, including boxes, labels and bubble wrap
- Furniture covers
- Rental equipment, such as ramps or dollies
- Shipping costs if you're sending items separately
- Food and lodging during your trip

You may also need to account for any deposits you have to make on your new home or apartment.



## 4. Downsize and Declutter

Moving is an excellent time to take inventory of your things and decide what you want to downsize or get rid of before moving. Your new home is a perfect place to restart, so be sensible with your choices. The more you sell, donate or throw out, the less you'll have to worry about packing. Minimizing your belongings will also reduce how much you have to move during move-in day.

## 5. Clean and Repair

Cleaning is an essential part of moving. Once you get everything packed, it'll be more accessible to deep clean everything, which can help you get your security deposit back and keep the property in good condition for the new tenants or homeowners.

Moving also offers the opportunity for repairs. You can repair appliances, replace light bulbs and take care of anything else that needs to be done before you move. If you have anything to fix, such as scuff marks or chipped paint, it's best to wait until you've moved most of your things since moving furniture and boxes can leave more marks.

## When to Start Packing

You should create your packing strategy at least six weeks in advance if possible. You can start packing two to three weeks before your move. However, the best timeframe will depend on how many things you have, how often you use your belongings and if you have room to store boxes temporarily.



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You can start with items that you rarely use, such as:

- Books
- Extra furniture
- Non-essentials
- Holiday decorations

Once you have these items packed and get closer to your move-in date, you can start packing other things. Ideally, you can store your boxes in a garage or unused room. Save any breakable items for last, so you decrease the risk of damage while they sit in boxes. Ensure you invest in quality boxing materials to hold up throughout your move. Wrap any breakable items in bubble wrap or paper and use dividers to keep them separate from each other in the boxes.

## Moving Checklist

A moving-out checklist is essential to know everything is prepared during this transitional period. While packing up your belongings is a given, you might not think about other details of the move. Here are different things you should prepare for your move to ensure a successful transition:

- **Contact a moving company or book a moving truck rental:** Start looking for moving services early if you plan on hiring professionals or want to use a rental truck. Consider your options and budget. Planning ensures you can book a moving company or rental truck on your ideal date.
- **Request time off work:** If you're moving on a day that you would usually work, you'll want to ask for the day off in advance. Moving is typically an all-day event, if not more, so you'll want to let your boss know beforehand. The earlier you request time off, the more likely it will be approved.
- **Find a school for the kids:** If you have children, you'll want to start researching schools in advance. Look for schools with good ratings and learn about the enrollment requirements to ensure your children can start school as soon as you complete your move.

- **Separate items you don't want the movers to handle:** Many people have valuable items they prefer to move on their own rather than trusting a moving service. Separate these items into labeled boxes so you can handle them yourself on moving day.
- **Ask friends and family for help with the move:** Friends and family are excellent resources to help you during a DIY move. Ask your family and friends in advance to ensure they can make time to help.
- **Collect or purchase moving boxes:** Moving boxes are an essential part of your move, so you want to start collecting them sooner rather than later. Your friends or family may have boxes you can use, or you can purchase brand-new boxes.
- **Label your boxes:** As you pack, you want to label your boxes according to the room so you know where they go when you move in. You don't want to search through random boxes to find your essentials or have too many unnecessary boxes in a single room. Labeling as you pack makes it easier to find what you need as you unpack.
- **Disassemble furniture:** Disassembling your furniture can make it easier to move. Start by disassembling the furniture you don't use often, and work on furniture you use more frequently a few days before you move.
- **Clean out your fridge:** You don't want to leave food or drinks in your fridge when you move, allowing them to spoil and creating a problem for future homeowners or tenants. Take the time to clean your fridge a day or two before moving out.
- **Transfer your home or renters insurance:** Remember to call your insurance company to transfer your home or renters insurance to your new place. Ensuring you're covered the day you move in can protect you from having to cover costs if something is damaged or stolen.

- **Transfer utilities:** On top of your insurance, you'll also want to transfer your utilities, including internet, cable, electric, water and trash, to ensure you have them ready on move-in day.



## Don't Forget to Service Your HVAC System

Setting up your HVAC system before your move-in can improve your comfort, allowing you to run the air conditioning during a hot move-in day or heating to warm yourself up during a cold move. SMO Energy offers numerous HVAC services, including maintenance, repairs and propane deliveries to your new home.

Our moving program can help you transfer your services or get them started, streamlining your moving day. Contact us today to learn how we can help you reduce the stress of moving.

Moving is an exciting time, but it can also become stressful if you don't plan properly. This chapter contains some of our best tips for moving and advice for how to move so you can reduce stress during your move.

## Top 6 Tips and Tricks for Packing

Packing doesn't have to be stressful. Here are some tips for packing to help you make the process easier and less stressful:

### 1. Start Early

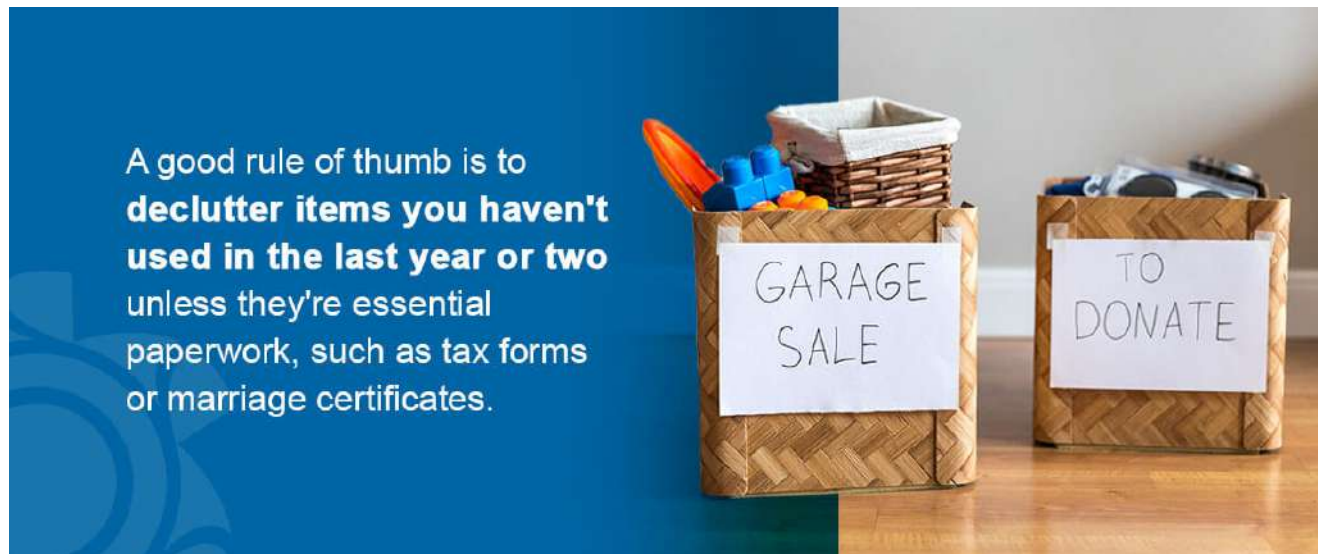
Packing takes time, so you want to prepare early. In most circumstances, you'll know about a move a few weeks in advance, if not more. It's best to start with off-season items or things you don't frequently use, like holiday decorations, books, seasonal clothing and other non-essential items. As move-in day approaches, packing early reduces how much you still need to pack, helping eliminate stress.

### 2. Declutter

Moving is an excellent time to declutter and eliminate things you don't use, want or need, reducing how much you have to pack. Packing items you don't need wastes time and reduces available space in your new home. While it can be challenging to get rid of things, it's best to do so as you transition into a new home. Consider going through the following categories and decluttering each:

- Paper
- Books
- Clothing
- Mementos
- Miscellaneous

Go through each category and keep the things you love. You can sell or donate items you don't use often or don't love. A good rule of thumb is to declutter items you haven't used in the last year or two unless they're essential paperwork, such as tax forms or marriage certificates.



### 3. Pack a Moving Bag

Many people are so excited to move that they forget to pack a moving bag containing their first night essentials and necessary paperwork. Moving day is often tiring after you finish hauling boxes from one place to the next, and most people don't want to unpack the same day they moved. Packing a moving bag can help reduce stress when arriving at your new home, allowing you to easily access your essentials, such as your toothbrush, a change of clothes and documents like rental or purchase papers or contracts. Consider what you might need for your first night in your new home and pack these items in a bag or clearly labeled box.

### 4. Start With Heavy Items, Then Light

When packing your boxes, you should start with heavy items towards the bottom and finish with the lightest items at the top. Packing this way reduces the risk of your belongings becoming damaged in your move. You also don't want to leave empty spaces in your boxes because items can slide around and break during the transition.



## 5. Sort Items by Room

When packing, sort your items by room and label the boxes to put them in the correct location when you move into your new home or apartment. If you're packing kitchen items, keep them together and create a label or color-coded system to identify boxes as you move in. If you're using a moving service, inform them of this system so they can correctly sort your boxes.

Sorting your items makes it easier to unpack, preventing you from sifting through random boxes to find what you need. Save time and stress by sorting your boxes by room while you pack.

## 6. Label Boxes

When packing, label your boxes so you know exactly what's inside. You can use your own system, whether labeling boxes based on room or using a unique color-coding system based on item type. Labeling boxes will save you a lot of time when you're unpacking since you'll know what's inside and where it goes, allowing you to unpack quickly and reduce stress.

# 8 Sanity-Saving Moving Tips

Packing can be stressful, but so can move-in day. The following tips can help reduce your stress during the day and help streamline the process:

- 1. Plan ahead:** Knowing what you need to get done can save you a lot of stress. While you may be focused on packing, you also have to clean, book a moving service, empty the fridge and complete other tasks. Making a to-do list can help you save time and ensure you complete all the necessary tasks associated with a move.
- 2. Schedule pet and child care:** Pets and children require constant care, which can be time-consuming and impractical during move-in day. Moving can also be dangerous for kids and pets. Arrange care for your pets and little ones, whether with a family member or a professional daycare.

- 3. Use a van with a ramp:** Having a moving van with a ramp makes it easier to move boxes and furniture into your new home. A ramp also reduces strain since you don't have to climb in and out of the moving van, reducing fatigue.
- 4. Schedule utilities early:** You don't want to move into your new home only to worry about calling the utility companies to get your electricity, water and other utilities turned on. Call the utility companies to schedule them to turn on the day of or before your move to ensure you can turn on the lights and run the water when you move in.
- 5. Set aside essentials:** Before moving day, you should pack the essentials you'll need on moving day and for a day or two after. These items can include toiletries, a few changes of clothes, medications and essential documents.
- 6. Eat breakfast:** A great way to prepare for moving day is to eat a hearty breakfast, giving yourself the energy to start a long day. Starting the day with high energy helps you begin the day on a good note and get into your new home as soon as possible.



A great way to prepare for moving day is to **eat a hearty breakfast**, giving yourself the energy to start a long day.

- 7. Have snacks on hand:** A good breakfast is an excellent start, but having snacks and drinks can help you sustain your energy and keep you hydrated. Whoever is helping you move will also appreciate having a way to replenish their energy while they're moving your belongings into your new home.

- 8. Leave out cleaning supplies:** When you move out, you might notice some spots you need to clean. You may want to wipe down counters or vacuum the floors at your new place when you move into your new home. Leaving out some cleaning supplies allows you to clean last minute.

## 7 Moving Mistakes to Avoid

When people prepare for a move, they may make a few mistakes if they've never prepared for a move before. Here are some common mistakes to avoid that could make your move more stressful than seamless:

- 1. Paying for boxes:** Moving requires plenty of boxes, but you don't always need to pay for them. Ask your friends or family if they have any extra boxes lying around. You can also ask different retail stores if you can use their discarded boxes.
- 2. Overpacking boxes:** Overpacking your boxes can cause them to be too heavy, making them more challenging to move when the day comes. If you have heavy items, pack them into smaller boxes and use bubble wrap or paper to fill any gaps so your things don't slide around in the box.
- 3. Choosing a random moving company:** A random moving company may not have the services or experience you need. You should conduct plenty of research to find a quality moving company.
- 4. Not asking for help:** Moving to a new home is a big undertaking, so you don't want to do it alone. Ask your friends or family if they can help, even if it's just supplying boxes or helping you load a moving truck on moving day.
- 5. Packing last-minute:** Packing last minute can add more stress you don't need, and you may not have the time to sort everything into room-specific boxes. Create a moving timeline and start packing in advance.
- 6. Getting the wrong insurance:** Insurance can help protect your items if something happens during moving day. You'll want to choose the right insurance that offers the coverage you need so you take on as little risk as possible.

- 7. Not spending time decluttering:** Decluttering can reduce your work when you pack and eliminate items you don't need. Before packing, you should spend some time decluttering your home.

## Prepare for Moving Day With SMO Energy

Another essential factor to consider when moving is the maintenance, repairs and propane delivery to your new home. You don't want to move into a new place only to find out that your HVAC system isn't working or doesn't have enough propane to power your heating or air conditioning.

### Prepare for Moving Day With SMO Energy

We offer different heating and air conditioning services, including installation, regular maintenance and repairs, helping you find comfort in your new home.



SMO Energy is here to help you eliminate additional stress from your move. We offer different heating and air conditioning services, including installation, regular maintenance and repairs, helping you find comfort in your new home. Contact us today to learn more about how we can help with your move!

A house essentials list can help you determine what you need for a new home. You may already have some of the items listed below, but our checklist can help determine if you're missing something.

## 8 Things to Buy for a New House

You likely need things for a new house to improve your comfort and safety when you move. We've created a checklist of things to buy for a new place to help you determine what you need to budget for and what essentials you need for your new home.

- 1. Security systems or cameras:** Protecting yourself and your family is a must when moving into a new home. Consider investing in a security system or cameras, such as video doorbells, to increase your security and safety.
- 2. Window coverings:** Privacy is another essential for your new home. You'll want to be able to draw the curtains or pull down blinds at the end of the day so you and your family can rest. If you don't already have window coverings or your new home doesn't come with blinds, you'll likely want to purchase some to increase privacy and comfort.
- 3. New locks:** Making your home secure is essential for you and your family's safety. When you move into your new home, change the locks to ensure no one else has a key to your new home, including your real estate agent or previous homeowner. Remember to make spare keys in case you misplace your new set.
- 4. Lighting:** Your new home may not have enough natural lighting or lighting fixtures to help you get around once the sun goes down. Investing in lighting can help guide your way through your new home as you adjust, making it easier to move in and unpack as the sun goes down.



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- 5. Throw pillows and blankets:** After a long day of moving, you'll likely want to relax rather than look through boxes for your comforter and pillows. Picking up a few throw pillows and blankets can help you improve your comfort right after a busy move and make a great addition to your living room once you've unpacked everything.
- 6. Storage bins and organizers:** You've gone through a lot of effort to move, and you don't want to start unpacking only to find you don't have space for different items. Storage bins and organizers can improve your organization and make it easier to store and access things you might only use a few times throughout the year, such as holiday decorations.
- 7. Smoke alarms and fire extinguishers:** You should replace smoke detectors every 10 years to ensure they work properly and can alert you in case of a fire. Check the smoke detectors in your new home to see if they need to be replaced. You may also want to invest in fire extinguishers and place them in areas more likely to have a fire, such as a kitchen, garage or laundry room.
- 8. Carbon monoxide detectors:** In addition to smoke alarms, you want to purchase carbon monoxide detectors to ensure your home and family are adequately protected. Put carbon monoxide detectors outside places someone might sleep and in areas like the kitchen or basement.



# Furnishing a New Home Checklist

You may be moving into a bigger home than your previous one, or maybe you're moving from a furnished apartment to an empty house. If you're furnishing your new home from scratch rather than bringing items from your old place, the following checklist can help you prepare so you know what to budget for:

- **Appliances:** Appliances make life easier, so you'll want to invest in any essential devices your new home doesn't include, such as a refrigerator, washer and dryer, microwave, vacuum cleaner, dishwasher and coffee maker.
- **Furniture:** Furniture makes a home feel more personal and comfortable, and many furniture items are essential for healthy living. If you don't have any furniture from your old house, consider investing in beds, sofas, dining room tables, chairs and other essential items for each room.
- **Cleaning supplies:** Cleaning is an inevitable part of living, so you'll want to stock up on cleaning supplies before your move to ensure you're prepared. Small things you'll need for a new house include a broom, a mop, sponges, toilet cleaners, disinfecting wipes and multipurpose cleaners.
- **Home makeover supplies:** You may want to take on DIY projects to make your new home your own. You can invest in paint, paint rollers, tape, ladders and floor protectors to help you make each room more personal.
- **Decor:** After you've moved in your furniture, you can decorate to make your home feel more comfortable and express yourself. Some decor options include accent pillows, throw blankets, wall art, family photos, coffee tables and bookshelves!
- **Kitchen necessities:** Cooking at home helps save money you'd otherwise use on takeout. Create a list of kitchen items you'll need, such as pots, pans, cooking utensils, plates, cups, silverware and dish soap.
- **Tools:** You may need to put furniture together or fix something in your new home, so you'll need a tool set for your new home that includes the necessities,

such as screwdrivers, hammers and a measuring tape.

- **Bathroom supplies:** Equipping your bathroom with the right supplies is necessary. You'll need items like a shower curtain, soap, towels, toothbrush holders, toilet paper and a waste bin.

## Invest in Your HVAC System

You'll also need a working HVAC system to keep you comfortable during the changing seasons. SMO Energy can help you prepare your HVAC system in your new home.

We offer various HVAC services to ensure your system performs as it should, from installation and propane delivery to maintenance and repairs. Contact us today to learn more about how we can help you facilitate and seamless move.



Renovating your home can help increase your property's value and improve your standard of living. However, some renovations may not be worth the cost or are better to do yourself rather than paying a contractor, especially if you're buying a new construction home. This chapter covers the home upgrades worth making to increase your property value and comfort and those you're better off avoiding or doing on your own.

## 6 New Home Upgrades Worth Making

Deciding what upgrades to get in a new home comes down to what will increase your home's value and improve your quality of living. Here is a checklist for renovating a house to determine what new home renovation ideas you should consider investing in after you move:

- 1. Wood floors:** Switching from carpet to wood floors can help create a seamless look from your living areas to your kitchen and bathrooms. Genuine hardwood floors can also increase the value of your home if you ever decide to sell in the future.
- 2. Upgraded tile:** Upgrading your kitchen or bathroom tile can help you achieve your dream look while increasing the value of your home. If you have multiple tiled rooms in your new home, you may want to start with your primary bathroom.
- 3. High kitchen cabinets:** Higher kitchen cabinets help create more space on the counters for larger appliances and cooking. You can also create more storage space for food or kitchen supplies.
- 4. Pots and pans drawers:** Drawers for your pots and pans help create an organized and designated space for your kitchen supplies. These deep drawers are easy to access, and you can use the extra space to store appliances like a toaster or blender.

- 5. Under-floor heating:** If installing new floors or tiles, you should consider under-floor heating. You can increase your home's warmth, comfort and value all at once.
- 6. Updated HVAC system:** Your HVAC system provides essential cooling and heating during different seasons. If you move into a home with an outdated or broken HVAC system, you should consider replacing it with something newer and more efficient.



If you move into a home with an outdated or broken HVAC system, **you should consider replacing it with something newer and more efficient.**

## 5 New Home Upgrades to Avoid

Taking on a new home renovation project has many benefits, but some renovations are best saved for later or as a DIY project. Here are some renovations to avoid right after moving in:

- 1. Appliances:** If your new home doesn't come with new appliances and you aren't bringing any from your old home, it's usually better and less expensive to buy them yourself. You can find the exact appliances you want with better quality than what might come from a contractor in a new build home, helping to increase your home value.
- 2. Special lighting:** Many homes come with standard lighting, but if you want to upgrade to something special, it's best to wait and do it yourself. Upgrading lighting yourself allows you to choose something that suits your style at a more affordable cost.

- 3. Marble countertops:** While marble is an attractive choice for kitchen or bathroom countertops, it's not as durable as other materials. Marble can stain and chip, so your investment won't last very long and won't go toward increasing the value of your home.
- 4. Crown molding:** Crown molding is a beautiful addition to any home, but it's more affordable to do it yourself. If crown molding is something you want, choose which rooms you want it in and hire a contractor after you've closed or do it yourself, especially if you're planning on painting the walls.
- 5. Kitchen backsplash:** Waiting to do the kitchen backsplash yourself is less expensive and allows more choices than new construction might offer. You can pick from options that suit your style, and installation is simple.



## Upgrade Your HVAC System With SMO Energy

Your HVAC system may be one of the first things you need to renovate in your new home. You trust your HVAC system to provide reliable heating and cooling throughout the year, and you don't want to be left without as soon as you move in.

SMO Energy is here to help you with all your HVAC needs as you move into your new home. We provide in-home energy consultations and can replace or repair HVAC equipment to improve comfort and energy efficiency. Contact us today to learn more about our services and how we can help you create a seamless move!



# 5

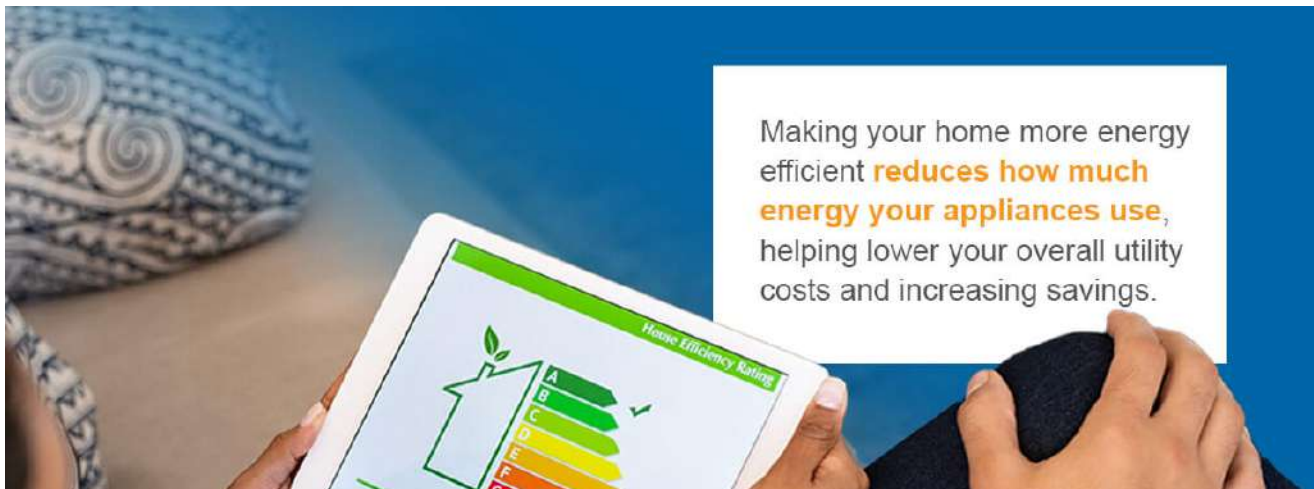
## Cut Costs With These Energy-Efficient Home Upgrades

If you're a new homeowner, saving where you can is likely at the forefront of your mind. Utilities can quickly add up, so you want to do everything you can to keep costs low without sacrificing comfort. In this chapter, you'll learn how to make your home energy efficient to reduce costs while improving comfort.

### The Benefits of an Energy-Efficient Home

Investing in energy-efficient home upgrades has many benefits for your home and wallet, including the following:

- **Lowers energy bills:** Energy powers your HVAC system, electricity and other utilities, which can quickly add up. Making your home more energy efficient reduces how much energy your appliances use, helping lower your overall utility costs and increasing savings.



- **Lowers water usage:** Some products can also help you reduce water usage and save on your monthly water bill.
- **Helps the environment:** Energy-efficient products reduce carbon emissions, helping lower environmental impact. Installing energy-efficient products helps fight climate change, improve air quality and promote healthy habits.



- **Increases comfort:** Some energy-efficient upgrades, such as new insulation, ceiling fans, on-demand water heaters or smart thermostats, can improve the comfort of your home without you having to waste energy on electricity, gas or water.
- **Improves air quality:** Energy-efficient products can help you use your heating and cooling systems less while improving interior ventilation and air quality. Interior air quality is crucial if family members have asthma or other respiratory conditions.
- **Increases resale value:** Energy-efficient homes are in demand, especially since more buyers are becoming eco-conscious. Upgrading to energy-efficient appliances and products can help increase the resale value of your home if you ever choose to sell.

## Top 8 Energy-Saving Home Upgrades

Energy-efficient cost savings can go a long way. You can save the money you would have spent on your utilities or put it toward something else. Here are some of the ways you can save on energy costs and the upgrades you should consider making:

1. **Upgrade windows:** The best windows can trap hot and cool air during the appropriate seasons, helping to reduce the strain on your HVAC system. Consider replacing any windows that are old or drafty to boost your energy savings.
2. **Use LED light bulbs:** LED lighting doesn't use as much electricity as traditional incandescent bulbs and is an affordable alternative. LEDs also last longer than conventional bulbs, reducing how often you need to replace your light bulbs while lowering your energy consumption.
3. **Upgrade insulation:** Your insulation helps trap hot or cold air in your home. Outdated or damaged insulation can let this air slip out, increasing your HVAC system's work. Consider upgrading your insulation so you can stay comfortable without a high price tag or overworking your HVAC system.

4. **Upgrade to energy-efficient appliances:** Upgrading your outdated appliances to energy-efficient alternatives can go a long way in helping you save money. You can also take steps to improve the efficiency of your appliances. For example, your refrigerator should have about an inch of space on all sides to allow for proper air circulation and reduce strain on your refrigerator's cooling system.
5. **Install smart thermostat:** You can program a smart thermostat to set your home to a specific temperature at any time of the day. If you're going out of the house all day for work, you can set your thermostat higher in the summer or lower in the winter so you're not using unnecessary energy while you're away. You can even program these thermostats to return your home to your ideal temperature 30 minutes to an hour before you return home.
6. **Invest in solar panels:** Solar panels are an investment, but they can help you save significantly on energy costs. Rather than relying on the grid, you can power your lighting and electric appliances with the sun, helping to reduce your energy consumption and costs.



7. **Upgrade to a tankless water heater:** Water heaters are one of the biggest energy consumers in any home. A tankless water heater reduces energy consumption and can sometimes outlast a traditional water heater. SMO Energy offers tankless water heaters and installation to ensure you never run out of hot water while reducing energy costs.

- 8. Update your HVAC system:** A outdated or damaged HVAC system can contribute to high energy costs. Replacing your HVAC system with equipment with a high Energy Star rating can help you save on your monthly utility costs without sacrificing interior comfort. SMO Energy offers HVAC equipment, installation, maintenance and repairs to keep your HVAC system working as it should.

## Tips for Conserving Energy

Energy-efficient products and appliances can do a lot to help you save and conserve energy, but they can only go so far. Here are some tips to help you save energy to maximize your savings:

- Lower the thermostat when you're not home or use a programmable thermostat.
- Turn off the water while brushing your teeth and shaving.
- Use cozy socks and blankets instead of a space heater.
- Take advantage of natural light by opening your curtains or blinds during the day.
- Turn off the lights when exiting the room.
- Unplug electronics when you're not using them.
- Conserve hot water and use cold water when you can.
- Apply weatherstripping or tight seals to your windows to limit airflow.

## Save on Utility Costs With SMO Energy

We know that your HVAC system is an essential part of your new home, and we want to do everything we can to help you make a seamless transition without having to worry about high utility costs.

SMO Energy can help you cut utility costs by improving your HVAC energy consumption. We offer in-home energy consultations to determine how much energy your HVAC system uses and where it can be improved. We offer an energy moving program to help you transition or start your HVAC services at your new home. We

can also replace your current HVAC system with something more energy-efficient to help you cut costs. Contact us today to learn more about how we can help you throughout your moving process and beyond!





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