

First-Week Unpack

KickOutClutter.com — Print and check off as you go.

Unpack in a calm, logical order so your home feels livable fast. Start with function (kitchen, beds, bathrooms), then utilities, then the rest.

Supplies

- Utility knife/box cutter, scissors, tape gun
- Trash bags, recycling bags, sticky notes/labels
- Basic toolkit: screwdriver, hex keys, hammer, level
- Cleaning kit: microfiber cloths, all-purpose spray, paper towels
- Shelf liners, command hooks/strips, extension cords/power strips

Quick Rules

- Unpack room by room; finish one zone before starting the next.
- Keep a 'Hardware/Tools' bin accessible; return tools to it after each task.
- Break down boxes as you go; take out trash/recycling daily.
- If you don't know where something lives yet, park it in a 'Maybe' bin.
- Aim for 'good enough'—you can optimize later.

1) Kitchen First (60–90 min)

- Unpack essentials: plates, bowls, cups, cutlery, daily pans, knife, cutting board.
- Set up coffee/tea station; trash/recycling under sink; dish soap and towels out.
- Place small appliances you'll use this week; stash the rest for later.

2) Beds & Linens (30–45 min)

- Assemble beds; add mattress protectors.
- Make beds with fresh sheets; set out extra blankets.
- Designate laundry hamper locations.

3) Bathrooms Ready (30–45 min)

- Shower curtain/liner up; towels, bath mats, TP and soap out.
- Unpack toiletries and daily meds; set up a simple tray/caddy.
- Check water shutoffs and GFCI outlets if needed.

4) Entry & Drop Zone (20–30 min)

- Hooks or rack for keys/coats; shoe tray in place.
- Mail tray and 'Action' folder staged; spot for packages.
- Set a temporary command hook solution if hardware isn't installed yet.

5) Utilities & WiFi (20–40 min)

- Modem/router online; place router central and elevated.
- Confirm electricity, gas, water, trash pickup days; note on fridge.
- Update thermostat schedules; test smoke/CO alarms.

6) Clothing Basics (30–45 min)

- Unpack a week's worth of outfits; hang/fold essentials.
- Set up dresser/closet zones; put empty suitcases away.
- Stage a donation bag for 'why did I pack this?' items.

7) Living Room Reset (20–30 min)

- Assemble sofa/legs; place rug; plug in lamps.
- Unpack remotes, power strips, chargers to a single basket.
- Mount TV later—use a temporary stand now if needed.

8) Trash, Recycling & Boxes (daily 10–15 min)

- Break down boxes; stack by size; schedule a pickup or post a free curb alert.
- Separate packing paper from bubble wrap for reuse or recycling.
- Keep utility knife and tape in a labeled 'Unpack Kit'.

9) Address & Admin (30–45 min)

- Change address (postal service, banks, payroll, subscriptions).
- Update driver's license/vehicle registration per local rules.
- Photograph meter readings and major appliance serial numbers.

10) Safety & Fix-It List (20–30 min)

- Test door/garage remotes and codes; change locks if needed.
- List small repairs (wobbly shelf, missing anchors, squeaky hinge).
- Note priority purchases (shower rod, curtain rings, bulbs, extension cords).