

How to Feel at Home After You Move

Moving to a new community can be a great adventure, if you go with the right attitude and a sound strategy for settling in. Make an action plan and you'll stay focused, organized and proactive -- just what's needed to put roots down fast.

Before You Go

- * Complete a change of address form with the post office, which can be done online at usps.com.
- * Contact the local Visitor's Bureau for materials about your new town
- * Pack a box with essentials for your first few nights, such as prescription medicine, toiletries, clothing, towels, toilet paper and bed linen.
- * You'll also want to make arrangements to have utilities transferred to your name or turned on. In addition, you will want to set up appointments to have services such as telephone, cable and high-speed Internet connected.

Upon Arrival

- * For safety and peace of mind, change the locks. You never know who has a copy of the house key.
- * Locate emergency services -- police and fire stations and the closest hospital.
- * Hang drapes or curtains to give you some privacy.
- * Stock the fridge with prepared entrees and the makings for no-fuss meals.

The First Week

- * Check with the post office to see if they are holding mail for you. Finish sending out change of address to credit card companies, clubs, associations, friends and family.
- * File away all documents related to the move. You'll need them for verification of moving expenses at tax time.
- * Call your waste removal company or department of sanitation for a trash collection schedule.
- * Open a bank account and arrange for a safe deposit box, if needed.
- * Register to vote. Call the local Board of Elections for information.
- * Take a tour of your neighborhood to become familiar with your new surroundings. Learn the routes to work, school, grocers, etc.

Get Involved in the Community

- * Spend time outdoors. Neighbors may greet you and come by for sidewalk chats.
- * Walk your dog in an area where you see other dog owners congregating.



- * Schedule an after-work coffee or dessert hour. Invite neighbors to drop by.
- * Choose a place to worship and get involved; consider doing volunteer work.
- * Join a club or take up activities you enjoyed before the move. Also find out if your community has a Newcomers Club. Your local library is a good place to start.

Don't hesitate to contact local financial and real estate professionals for more ideas or information about your new community. By re-establishing daily patterns and developing ties soon after arrival, your new environment will feel like home in no time. For more tips, visit www.Prudential.com/realestate.



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