

Unpacking and Decluttering Checklist

A room-by-room checklist for settling into a new home without the clutter following you in. Pairs with our full guide: worldutilityhub.com/blog

Before You Unpack a Single Box

- ☐ Deep clean each room while it's still empty, it's your only chance to do this easily
- ☐ Decide on furniture placement before boxes arrive, so movers only move things once
- ☐ Set up beds first, so exhausted moving days still end with a place to sleep
- ☐ Unpack your first-night box before anything else
- ☐ Sort remaining boxes by room and priority (kitchen and bathroom first)

The One-Box-At-A-Time Rule

- ☐ Fully empty and put away one box before opening the next
- ☐ Break down empty boxes immediately so they don't pile up and create new clutter
- ☐ Create a temporary 'undecided' box for items you're unsure about, revisit it in 30 days
- ☐ If you haven't used or missed an item from the undecided box in 30 days, donate it

Kitchen

- ☐ Unpack and organize by how often you use items, daily items at eye level
- ☐ Let go of duplicate tools, mismatched containers, and anything you didn't unpack from the last move
- ☐ Set up trash, recycling, and compost before groceries arrive
- ☐ Stock only what fits comfortably, don't over-shop before you know your storage space

Bedroom and Closet

- ☐ Unpack seasonal clothing last, off-season items can stay boxed until needed
- ☐ Apply the hanger trick: turn all hangers backward, flip forward once worn, donate anything untouched after 6 months
- ☐ Set up a designated spot for keys, wallet, and everyday essentials near the door instead of the bedroom

Living Room and Common Areas

- ☐ Unpack books and decor last, they're the easiest to delay and the first source of visual clutter

- ☐ Avoid buying new furniture until you've lived in the space for a few weeks and know what it actually needs
- ☐ Set up cable and cord management as you go, not after everything's already tangled

Paper and Digital Clutter

- ☐ Shred or recycle moving-related paperwork you no longer need once utilities are confirmed active
- ☐ Set up mail forwarding and recycle junk mail immediately rather than letting it pile up
- ☐ Digitize important documents you're tempted to keep in paper form

30 Days After the Move

- ☐ Revisit your 'undecided' box and donate or discard anything untouched
- ☐ Do a full walkthrough of every room and remove anything that still doesn't have a home
- ☐ Schedule a donation pickup or drop-off for anything set aside during unpacking
- ☐ Reassess what storage solutions you actually need, rather than buying them before moving in

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