

The Before-You-Pack Decluttering Checklist

Complete it digitally, save it, or print it and check items by hand.

MOVE DATE

DONATION DEADLINE

SALE DEADLINE

DISPOSAL DATE

GETTING STARTED

- Choose one staging area for sell, donate, recycle, and dispose.
- Gather boxes, bags, labels, markers, tape, gloves, and a measuring tape.
- Set a firm donation drop-off or pickup date.
- Limit undecided items to one container with a decision date.
- Keep halls, stairs, doors, and exits clear.

ROOM PROGRESS

- Garage / attic / basement / shed
- Guest room and utility closets
- Bathrooms and linen closets
- Primary bedroom and closets
- Other bedrooms
- Children's rooms / playroom
- Kitchen cabinets and pantry
- Refrigerator and freezer
- Living and dining areas
- Home office and paperwork
- Electronics and cords
- Books, crafts, and seasonal items
- Patio, balcony, and outdoor storage

SELL & DONATE

- Choose only items worth the time required to sell.
- Set listing, price-reduction, and final removal dates.
- Move unsold items to donation or disposal by the deadline.
- Check each organization's current acceptance guidelines.
- Clean and inspect donations.
- Schedule furniture pickup early, when available.
- Remove every donation box from the home.

RECYCLE OR SAFELY DISPOSE

- Electronics
- Batteries
- Paint, solvents, and household chemicals
- Motor oil and automotive fluids
- Propane or compressed-gas cylinders
- Medication and sharps
- Confidential papers
- Large appliances, mattresses, and bulky items
- Construction or remodeling materials
- Verify instructions with Raleigh Reuse or the proper local facility.

FURNITURE CHECK

- Measure width, height, depth, and diagonal depth.
- Measure doors, halls, stairs, landings, railings, and elevators.
- Confirm destination-room dimensions and walking clearance.
- Discuss disassembly and specialty pieces with John's.
- Arrange removal for furniture that is not moving.

Moving-Day Readiness

PERSONAL ESSENTIALS BAG - KEEP WITH YOU

- Identification, wallet, keys, and payment methods
- Moving agreement and John's contact information
- Lease or closing documents
- Medications and medical devices
- Phones, laptops, and chargers
- Several days of clothing and toiletries
- Children's comfort items
- Immediate pet supplies
- Valuables and irreplaceable belongings
- Emergency contacts

FIRST-NIGHT BOX - OPEN FIRST

- Bedding and towels
- Toilet paper and hand soap
- Basic kitchen supplies
- Water and snacks
- A few cleaning supplies
- Pet food, bowls, leash, and waste bags
- Basic tools and chargers
- Change of clothing
- Label the box OPEN FIRST.

FINAL WALKTHROUGH

- All closets, cabinets, and drawers checked
- Attic, basement, garage, and shed checked
- Patio, balcony, yard, refrigerator, and freezer checked
- Keys and access devices collected
- Essentials are with you
- Nothing marked NOT MOVING was loaded

BEFORE THE MOVERS ARRIVE

- Donations and trash have left the property.
- Restricted and special-disposal items are separated.
- Anything not moving is clearly marked.
- Personal essentials and valuables are separated.
- Hallways, stairs, doors, and loading paths are clear.
- Loose cords, rugs, toys, and bags are removed.
- Pets are secured away from work areas.
- Children have safe supervision away from loading paths.
- Parking, gates, building access, and elevators are confirmed.
- Packing responsibilities are understood.
- Fragile, heavy, valuable, or unusual items have been discussed with John's.
- Phone is charged and available.

NOTES / QUESTIONS FOR JOHN'S

Before packing questionable items:

Ask John's for the current prohibited and restricted-items list.

Donation rules, city services, fees, and hours can change.

Check current official guidance before making a trip or scheduling pickup.