



YOUR NEW HOME SETUP GUIDE



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ABSTRACT

"Your New Home Setup Guide" is a comprehensive resource designed to help homeowners navigate the exciting yet overwhelming process of settling into a new space. From the first steps of unpacking essentials and setting up utilities, to creating functional and personalized living areas, this guide offers practical advice to ensure a smooth transition. Whether you're organizing each room, installing smart home devices, or focusing on home safety, the guide covers everything you need to get your new home ready for daily life.



In addition to organizational tips, the guide provides valuable insights into managing home budgets, maintaining your space, and creating a comfortable environment. It also offers suggestions for building a routine, adjusting to your new neighborhood, and handling the stress of moving. With clear, easy-to-follow steps, "Your New Home Setup Guide" ensures that your new home is not only functional but also a place where you can truly feel at ease.

LET'S GET STARTED

"Your New Home Setup Guide" is a step-by-step resource designed to simplify the process of settling into a new home. It covers all aspects of the moving-in experience, from unpacking and organizing to setting up utilities and making your space feel like your own. Whether you're focusing on practical tasks like arranging furniture and tech setups, or adding personal touches with decor, this guide provides clear instructions to help you create a functional and comfortable home.

Beyond just organizing, this guide also addresses ongoing home maintenance, budgeting tips, and how to establish routines that keep your new space running smoothly. It also includes helpful advice on adjusting to your new neighborhood and handling any stress that may come with the transition. With everything you need in one place, "Your New Home Setup Guide" ensures that you can settle in quickly, efficiently, and with peace of mind.

FIRST THINGS YOU SHOULD DO WHEN YOU MOVE INTO A NEW HOME

Moving is stressful, and as soon as you unload all your boxes and things into your new place, you probably want to just sit back and relax. But there's a checklist of things to do before you can get fully settled in to your new home—and it goes beyond unpacking your stuff. Moving is a delicate balancing act of remembering to disconnect, turn on, and transfer various services, while also trying to make the move as efficient as possible, and it can be quite hectic.

So, we rounded up a team of home and real estate experts to explain the first things you should do when you move into a new home. The tasks can differ depending on whether you're moving into a home you bought versus one you're renting, but the faster you check them off your list, the faster you can focus on enjoying your new space.

Change the locks

Before you move yourself, your family, or any of your belongings into your new home, you should first change the locks. "Most people think of the obvious reason,

which is because the previous owners have a key—and that’s true,” says Candice Williams, a realtor at Coldwell Banker Realty in Houston. However, she says there may also be friends or family who have a key. “Some of these other people may not even know the owners have moved and may stop by,” she explains, and this can create a very uncomfortable and possibly dangerous situation.

Forward mail and notify contacts

One way to avoid mix-ups with family and friends is to ensure that they have your new address. “Update your address information with key contacts such as your employer, school, and insurance company,” says Williams. “Also, avoid any missed mail by setting up mail forwarding with the post office—and as mail gets forwarded from your previous address, use this as a point of reference as to who still needs your new address updated for their records,” Williams recommends. And don’t forget banks, as well as credit card companies and other creditors that may typically send digital bills and notifications. (While you may never get a physical bill from your credit card company or bank, don’t forget that they’ll send your new credit or debit card via snail mail—and it may be after the mail forwarding period is over.)

Check on your HOA items

If you're in an HOA (homeowner’s association), you should already have a point of contact to ensure that you get everything you need when you need it. However, mistakes do happen, so Lisa Harris of RE/MAX Center in Braselton, Georgia, recommends double-checking with them, since it’s better to be safe than sorry. “Ensure that you have gate access codes, pool access, security codes, and also download any applicable apps,” she says. In addition, she says you need to be clear on how to make your monthly or annual HOA payments.

Find your home’s main shut-off valve

In a new home, it may take a while to figure everything out. However, Thomas Dougherty, VP of operations of Benjamin Franklin Plumbing, recommends finding your home’s main shut-off valve as soon as you move in. If your household plumbing suddenly springs a major leak, he says you’ll need to shut off the water immediately so it won’t flood your home.

Thoroughly clean your kitchen

You can't be too careful when moving into a new home—especially as it relates to where you prepare and store your food. “Before breaking bread in your new-to-you kitchen, clean your cabinets, shelves, appliances, and floors,” says Leanne Stapf, COO of The Cleaning Authority.



She recommends using a vacuum hose to reach the back corners of the cabinets to remove any crumbs or dust. “Keep a close eye out for pests or rodent droppings,” Stapf warns. Next, she says you should use warm water and soap to wipe down the shelves, sides, and cabinet doors.

Check out your HVAC unit

Problems with your HVAC can make your summers hotter, your winters colder, and your utility bills higher. Mark Dawson, executive vice president of trade brands at Authority Brands, recommends checking and cleaning your HVAC unit to ensure smooth sailing. “Clear around the outdoor HVAC unit, removing any

debris, shrubs, sticks, etc., since these items hinder the HVAC unit from doing its job, making it work harder and increasing your energy usage,” Dawson says.

In addition, he recommends replacing the air filter. “The air filter needs to be replaced every 1-2 months, so likely you’ll have to replace the air filter when you first move in,” he says. In rentals, it's typically the tenant's responsibility to replace the air filter, though the landlord may put in a fresh one at the beginning of your lease.

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD WHILE SHIFTING TO NEW HOME



Moving to a new home is not just about unpacking boxes; it’s also about becoming familiar with your new surroundings. Getting to know your neighborhood can make the transition smoother and help you feel more at ease in your new environment. Here are a few steps to help you get acquainted with your new community while shifting to your new home:

1. Explore the Local Area: Take some time to walk or drive around your neighborhood to familiarize yourself with nearby shops, restaurants, and parks.

Knowing where the nearest grocery store, pharmacy, and coffee shop are can save you time and help you feel more settled.

2. Introduce Yourself to Neighbors: Meeting your new neighbors is a great way to build a sense of community. You can start by saying hello and perhaps introducing yourself when you're out walking or doing errands. It's a good way to get local tips and recommendations, as well as make new friends.

3. Check Out Local Amenities: Find out what local services and amenities are available. This could include the nearest hospital, school, post office, or gym. Knowing where essential services are located is helpful, especially in case of emergencies.

4. Attend Community Events: Many neighborhoods host regular community events, markets, or social gatherings. Attending these events can help you meet new people, discover local culture, and integrate into the neighborhood.

5. Learn About the Area's History and Culture: Understanding the history, culture, and vibe of your new neighborhood can help you feel more connected. Look up local landmarks, cultural institutions, or historical sites to get a deeper sense of the place you now call home.

6. Safety and Security: Familiarize yourself with the safety aspects of the neighborhood. This includes knowing the safest routes to take when walking or driving, where the nearest police or fire station is, and joining neighborhood watch programs if available.

By taking the time to explore your new neighborhood while moving in, you can make the transition smoother and start enjoying your new home even sooner. It's all about creating a sense of belonging and comfort in the space around you.

WHERE TO START WHEN ORGANIZING YOUR HOME

There's no better time to organize your home than the beginning of a new year. Whether you've lived in your house for 20 years or you recently moved in, a good organizational system is key to simplifying and streamlining your home and consequently your life. From a thorough deep clean to decluttering storage closets

that has become a dumping ground for rarely used items—we are here with eight helpful tips to help you get started.

Organizing your entire home may feel like a daunting task you'd rather not even begin—we'll teach you how to break it down into steps to make it simple and manageable, as well as how to create an organizational system that fits your lifestyle and is easy to maintain throughout the year.

1. Start with a Plan

- Before diving into organizing, create a step-by-step plan. List the rooms and spaces in order of priority, starting with high-traffic areas like the kitchen or bedroom. Break larger tasks into smaller, manageable chunks to avoid feeling overwhelmed. Set realistic timelines for each room.



2. Declutter First

- Go through your belongings and get rid of items you no longer need or use. Sort them into categories: keep, donate, sell, or discard. Decluttering helps free up space and makes organizing easier. Focus on one area at a time, such as a closet or a drawer, to stay efficient.

3. Organize by Zones

- Divide each room into specific zones based on their function. For example, in the kitchen, create zones for cooking, food storage, and cleaning. In the living room, have separate areas for entertainment, reading, and decor. This method ensures everything has a designated place.

4. Use Storage Solutions Wisely

- Invest in practical storage options such as bins, baskets, shelves, and drawer dividers. Label containers to make finding items easier. Utilize vertical space with wall-mounted shelves or hooks, and consider under-bed storage for rarely used items.

5. Tackle One Room at a Time

- Focus on one room completely before moving to the next. This helps you see progress and stay motivated. Start with the most-used spaces, such as the kitchen, bathroom, or bedroom, to make your home functional as quickly as possible.

6. Group Similar Items Together

- Categorize your belongings and store similar items together. For instance, keep all office supplies in one place or group seasonal clothing in the same section of your closet. This not only saves time but also prevents duplicate purchases.

7. Create Daily Habits

- Develop simple habits to maintain organization. For example, adopt a “one in, one out” rule for new purchases, or spend 10 minutes each day tidying up. Regular maintenance keeps clutter at bay and ensures your home stays organized in the long run.

8. Personalize Your Space

- Once everything is in its place, add personal touches to make your home feel cozy and inviting. Use decor, lighting, and color schemes that reflect your style. A well-organized home that also feels like "you" makes living in it more enjoyable.

By starting with these detailed steps, you can turn the daunting task of organizing into an achievable and satisfying process. Organizing your home not only creates a functional living space but also brings peace of mind.



10 WAYS TO PERSONALIZE A NEW HOME

When you first move into a new house, it's only natural to want to put your personal stamp on the space — after all, unless you built your dream home, it's likely that the finishes, fixtures and paint colors were chosen according to the previous owner's taste. So where to begin? Here are 10 projects, both small and large, that should help make your house feel like home.

1. Add a Fresh Coat of Paint

- Painting is one of the easiest and most impactful ways to personalize a new home. Choose colors that resonate with your personality and bring warmth or energy to the space. For a bold look, go for accent walls in vibrant tones, or opt for

neutral shades for a timeless appeal. Don't forget to consider finishes like matte, gloss, or textured paints to add depth and character.

2. Incorporate Personal Decor

- Your home should tell your story. Add framed family photos, travel souvenirs, or heirlooms to shelves and walls. Unique sculptures, vases, or handmade items can also reflect your taste and make the space feel special. Personal decor gives every room a sense of individuality.

3. Upgrade Lighting

- Standard lighting fixtures in new homes can feel impersonal. Replace them with stylish chandeliers, pendant lights, or modern LED fixtures that align with your design preferences. Use dimmers to adjust the ambiance and layer your lighting with floor lamps, table lamps, or string lights for a cozy and welcoming feel.

4. Style with Textiles

- Introduce warmth and comfort with textiles like area rugs, cushions, throws, and curtains. Pick patterns and fabrics that match your decor theme, whether it's bohemian, minimalist, or traditional. Layering textiles of different textures, such as soft velvet cushions with woven rugs, adds a touch of luxury and hominess.

5. Create a Gallery Wall

- A gallery wall is a creative way to showcase your personality. Curate a mix of framed photos, artwork, posters, or even inspirational quotes. Arrange them in a grid or freestyle layout. Experiment with frames in different colors and sizes to create a dynamic visual display.

6. Bring in Plants

- Plants breathe life into your home and add natural beauty. From low-maintenance options like succulents and snake plants to larger statement pieces like fiddle-leaf figs, greenery enhances every corner. You can also add hanging planters, window herbs, or flower vases to bring nature indoors.

7. Design a Feature Space

- Personalize your home by dedicating a space to something you love. Create a cozy reading nook with a comfortable chair, lamp, and bookshelf. If you're into music, set up a mini studio with your instruments. Hobby areas make your home not just functional but also uniquely tailored to your interests.

8. Change Hardware and Fixtures

- Upgrading basic hardware like door handles, cabinet knobs, and faucets can give your home a polished and unique touch. Choose finishes like matte black, brushed nickel, or antique brass to match your decor style. Even small upgrades like new switch plates or hooks can make a noticeable difference.

9. Add Custom Storage Solutions

- Storage can be both practical and stylish. Consider custom shelving units that match your home's aesthetic, or install hidden storage solutions like under-bed drawers or ottomans with compartments. Use decorative baskets or boxes to organize items while enhancing the room's design.

10. Scent Your Space

- Scents can evoke emotions and memories, making them a powerful tool for personalizing your home. Use diffusers, candles, or essential oil burners with fragrances you love, such as lavender for relaxation or citrus for energy. A signature scent can make your home feel distinctly yours and welcoming for guests.

CLEANING OF NEW HOME

Cleaning your new home before settling in is essential to create a fresh, healthy, and welcoming space. Start by dusting and wiping down all surfaces, including walls, windows, and cabinets, to remove dirt and debris. Deep clean high-touch areas like doorknobs, light switches, and countertops to eliminate germs. Pay special attention to the kitchen and bathroom, ensuring appliances, sinks, and tiles are thoroughly sanitized. Vacuum and mop floors, focusing on corners and under

furniture. If the home was previously occupied, steam-clean carpets and upholstery to refresh them. Cleaning your new home thoroughly not only ensures hygiene but also helps you start your journey in a tidy and stress-free environment. For a hassle-free experience, consider hiring professional cleaners.



QUICK CLEANING TIPS TO GET YOUR NEW HOME SETTLED FAST

Moving into a new home is exciting as well as exhausting. You have to unpack everything and place the items in their respective spaces. It can take a few days to find the missing sock or the spoon that could not be located in the cutlery box. However, before you step into the territory of organising and planning the placement of furniture for the perfect ambience, you need to do some cleaning.

Whether it is a newly built house or a previously rented property, you need to ensure it is sanitised and cleaned effectively. Moving can leave you stressed and tired. In this situation, hiring professional vacate cleaning Perth services can help you finish the task quickly.

However, if you wish to take up the chore, here are some quick cleaning tips to get your new home settled fast. These come in handy when you want to restart your life on the property as soon as possible.

1. Start With Unpacking Your Cleaning Supplies

The first box you should open is the one carrying the cleaning supplies. You must get rid of the trash lying around and ensure that the moving boxes are neatly stacked in one corner to complete the deep cleaning. If your belongings are cluttering the walkways and blocking the doors, you cannot perform the required cleaning.

The next step is to check the HVAC system and the fixtures in the house. Hire a handyman to evaluate their health status and change the locks for safety purposes. Finally, gather all the cleaning supplies and gear to get started with the task.

2. Focus on Kitchen Sanitisation

Cooking will have to begin immediately in the new house. Thus, you must clean the kitchen as soon as possible. Begin from the ceiling and then clean the shelves and cabinets.

Wipe and disinfect the countertop and stovetop to make it ready for hygienic preparations. Clean the sink and faucets before you start with the appliances. The oven, microwave, rangehood and other fixtures in the kitchen must be degreased and efficiently sanitised with natural cleaning supplies to avoid toxic fumes and residue.

3. Disinfect the Toilet and Bathtub

The next most used space in the house is the bathroom. It must be squeaky clean before you start using it. You must begin cleaning from the ceiling and then wipe the tiles on the walls like a professional vacate cleaning Perth service provider.

Next, scrub the toilet and the bathtub to remove odour, marks, and stains. Sanitise the sink and wipe the faucets to let them shine. The shower area must be cleaned with precision to remove soap scum and hard water stains. Do not forget to dust the cabinets and wipe the mirrors and windows.

4. Clean the Fridge Before Other Objects

You will have to eat before you unpack everything and need the refrigerator to store the takeout or packed food you are carrying. However, before you place your food in the refrigerator, it must be cleaned thoroughly. It is not necessary that the landlord may have hired a professional Perth vacate cleaning service.

Thus, to maintain the hygiene levels, you must remove the shelves and drawers and then clean the interior walls. The appliance must be unplugged during the process, and the freezer must be defrosted. Next, clean it from the outside and disinfect the interiors with baking soda and vinegar.



5. Pay Attention to Carpet Cleaning

Carpets can have a lot of hidden dirt and debris, even if they appear clean on the surface. Thus, when you move into a new house, you must hire an expert for vacate cleaning in Perth to get it pressure or steam-cleaned. The deep cleaning procedures ensure the floor coverings are devoid of dander and pet hair, and there is no risk of germs lurking in the tufts of the carpets.

However, if you are willing to do it yourself, use your vacuum cleaner to remove all the dirt and sprinkle baking soda. Let the powder sit on the stains for six hours, and vacuum the carpet. It will remove bad odours as well.

6. Follow General Room Cleaning

For the living room and bedrooms, you must follow general cleaning that begins from the ceiling. This must include the air conditioner vents, ceiling fans, light switches, lights, blinds, windows, doors, doorknobs, baseboards, and walls.

Use squeegees and microfiber dusting cloths for the walls and a duster with a telescopic stick to reach the ceiling fan and the cobwebs in the corners. Remove all marks and streaks from the surfaces and make the space suitable for starting a new chapter in your life.

7. Clean the Floors Appropriately

In the top-to-bottom approach, dirt and debris fall on the floors and make them dirty. So, vacuum the floors in all the rooms and then mop them. The wooden floors must be cleaned by sweeping them and then add half a cup of distilled white vinegar in a gallon of warm water to mop it. After you finish the cleaning, organise your stuff in the house and settle down easily.

Wrapping Up

Cleaning a house before you start living in it is essential to ensure it is devoid of germs, dirt and grunge. It helps to spruce up the space and make it ideal for your family members to use and relax without any concerns. The tips above can help you achieve the best new house cleaning quickly.

HOUSEHOLD EXPENSES: FOR NEW HOME

Household expenses are general living expenses, broken down according to the number of individuals in a household. They include the amounts paid for lodging, food consumed at home, utilities, clothing, and other costs. The sum of all the expenses is then divided by the number of family members residing in the house in order to find each member's share of the total expense.

Some household expenses qualify for tax deductions. For example, if you work from home and have an office there, you might qualify for the home office deduction.

Types of Household Expenses

Home Expenses

In addition to the cost of housing—whether it is rent or mortgage payments—household expenses also include real estate taxes, fees for utilities such as electricity and gas, and insurance for the property.

The needs of each person accounted for in the household are also tallied up in these costs. These needs include the cost of prescription medicines and other healthcare fees.



Child-Related Expenses

Expenditures for education such as tutoring services, the purchase and maintenance of school uniforms, textbooks, personal computers, stationery, and pens are all

included as household expenses. Tuition, whether for private schools or universities, may be included as expenses carried by the household because the student typically relies on a parent or guardian to pay such fees.

Childcare services, such as hiring babysitters or paying for daycare for young children while parents are at work, are included in household expenses as well.

Transportation Expenses

Transportation fees, such as the cost of leasing or buying a car through installment payments, commuting costs to work, and other services used by members of the household to get around, such as taxis or buses, can be counted as expenses to the household. Legal fees for members of a household, whether for consulting services or litigation, may also be included as well.

Entertainment Expenses

Costs for leisure and pastimes might be part of a household's regular expenditures. Nights out at the movies or subscription television services are part of entertainment purchases for the household.

The money spent on vacations, costs to participate in hobbies such as procuring collectible items, and fees for club memberships also add to these expenses. However, the necessity of such expenditures may come into question when budgeting to maintain the necessities of a household, particularly if there is a decline in personal income. If household expenses surpass your capacity to pay them, you may incur increased debt and confront more extensive consequences.

TIPS TO MANAGE HOUSEHOLD EXPENSES IN NEW HOME

1. Create a Budget

- Start by listing all your monthly income and fixed expenses, such as rent or mortgage, utilities, and insurance. Allocate a portion for variable costs like groceries, entertainment, and transportation. A clear budget helps you track your spending and prevents overspending.

2. Prioritize Essential Expenses

- Focus on essentials such as utility bills, food, and loan payments before spending on non-essentials. Categorize your expenses to distinguish between needs and wants, ensuring you cover critical payments first.



3. Track Your Spending

- Use apps, spreadsheets, or a journal to monitor your daily expenses. Knowing where your money goes can help you identify areas where you can cut back or optimize spending.

4. Set Up an Emergency Fund

- Unexpected expenses, such as repairs or medical emergencies, can strain your finances. Build an emergency fund with at least three to six months' worth of living expenses to safeguard against financial surprises.

5. Save on Utilities

- Reduce energy and water bills by adopting habits like turning off lights, using energy-efficient appliances, and fixing leaks. Invest in smart thermostats and energy-saving bulbs to cut long-term costs.

6. Limit Unnecessary Purchases

- Avoid impulse buying by making a shopping list and sticking to it. Delay non-essential purchases for a few days to assess if they're truly needed. Look for second-hand furniture or appliances to save money.

7. Shop Smart for Groceries

- Plan meals, make a shopping list, and stick to it. Buy in bulk for non-perishable items and take advantage of discounts or loyalty programs. Consider cooking at home more often to save on dining out.

8. Schedule Regular Maintenance

- Routine maintenance of appliances, HVAC systems, and plumbing can prevent costly repairs in the future. Address small issues immediately to avoid them becoming expensive problems.

9. Look for Tax Benefits

- If you've bought a new home, explore tax deductions for mortgage interest, property taxes, or home office expenses. Consult a tax advisor to maximize potential savings.

10. Plan for Future Upgrades

- Don't rush to renovate or upgrade your home all at once. Prioritize improvements, spread them over time, and set aside funds gradually to avoid financial strain.

Managing household expenses in your new home requires careful planning, disciplined spending, and a proactive approach to saving. With these tips, you can maintain financial stability and enjoy your new space stress-free.

CONCLUSION

Setting up your new home is an exciting journey that allows you to create a space uniquely yours. By planning ahead, organizing effectively, and personalizing your surroundings, you can transform your house into a welcoming and functional sanctuary. Whether it's decluttering, arranging furniture, or adding decorative touches, each step brings you closer to creating a comfortable environment that reflects your personality and lifestyle. Taking the time to clean, explore your neighborhood, and manage expenses efficiently ensures a smooth transition into your new space.



Remember, setting up your home is not a race but a process. It's about creating a balance between practicality and aesthetics while making your house a place where you and your loved ones feel at ease. By following the tips and steps outlined in this guide, you'll not only settle into your new home but also build a foundation for years of happiness and cherished memories.

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