



PRINT ME · PUT ME IN YOUR MOVING BINDER

THE BAY AREA MOVING GUIDE

Everything a Peninsula move actually needs — a week-by-week timeline, the change-of-address list with the California-only chores national guides skip, a room-by-room inventory, printable box labels, and first-night tips for earthquake country. Questions at any step? Call Joshua directly.



WHAT'S INSIDE

1	Moving timeline, week by week	p. 2-3	2	Choosing your mover + move details	p. 4
3	Whom to notify — Bay Area edition	p. 5-6	4	Room-by-room home inventory	p. 7-10
5	Printable box labels	p. 11	6	First night + making it home	p. 12

8 WEEKS BEFORE

- ☐ **Book your mover.** Summer and end-of-month dates on the Peninsula fill 4–6 weeks out. Lock yours in early.
- ☐ **Purge before packing.** Sell, donate, or let us haul it away — every box you don't move saves money.
- ☐ **Set a budget + folder.** One place for estimates, receipts, and paperwork.
- ☐ **Ask about your building.** Renting in SF, Oakland, or San Jose? Check elevator reservations and whether a COI is required — we issue those same-day.
- ☐ **Need storage?** Reserve it now — ours is included with your move.

Bay Area tip: if your street is steep or narrow (hi, SF), tell your mover up front so the right truck shows up.

4 WEEKS BEFORE

- ☐ **Start packing, one room a week.** Or skip it — full and partial packing is what we do all day.
- ☐ **File USPS mail forwarding.** Online at usps.com — takes five minutes.
- ☐ **Transfer utilities.** PG&E (or your city's own utility — Palo Alto, Santa Clara, and Alameda run theirs), plus internet, water, and trash.
- ☐ **Update subscriptions + deliveries.** Magazines, meal kits, bottled water.
- ☐ **School records.** Moving districts? Request transfers now — Bay Area districts verify residency, so have your lease or closing docs handy.

Label boxes by room and color-code. Your crew unloads faster and you unpack in half the time.

2 WEEKS BEFORE

- ☐ **Confirm everything.** We'll call you anyway — but confirm your date, arrival window, and building requirements.
- ☐ **Reserve curb space.** In SF, Oakland, and Berkeley you can get a temporary no-parking permit for the truck — worth it on busy streets. We'll advise.
- ☐ **Pack a "first night" box.** Sheets, towels, toiletries, chargers, coffee. Label it loudly.
- ☐ **Use up the fridge + freezer.** Plan meals around what's left.
- ☐ **Arrange kid + pet care** for moving day.

2 DAYS BEFORE

- ☐ **Finish laundry.** Nobody moves dirty clothes twice.
- ☐ **Defrost the fridge** if it's coming with you.
- ☐ **Set aside valuables.** Jewelry, documents, laptops travel with you, not on the truck.
- ☐ **Clean as you empty.** Deposit-friendly and one less trip back.

! MOVING DAY

- ☐ **Eat breakfast, stash water + snacks.** It's a long day even when the pros carry everything.
- ☐ **Walk the crew through.** Point out fragile items, what stays, and where things go at the new place.
- ☐ **Keep your first-night box + valuables in your car.**
- ☐ **Final walkthrough.** Every closet, cabinet, garage corner, and crawl space.
- ☐ **Photograph meters + keys.** Gas, electric, water readings at both homes.
- ☐ **Save receipts.** Some moving costs are tax-relevant — keep the folder going.

SET REMINDERS

Small tasks are easily forgotten mid-move. Put the dates from these two pages straight into your phone calendar with alerts.

YOUR OWN TO-DOS

QUESTIONS ANY MOVER SHOULD ANSWER

Ask these of every company you consider — a legitimate mover answers all of them without hesitation. Ours are printed on the right. Verify any California mover's license and complaint record at bhgs.dca.ca.gov; interstate movers at protectyourmove.gov.

ASK THEM

JOSHUA'S ANSWER

How long have you been in business?

Since 2013 — owner-operated the whole way.

Are your movers employees or contractors?

Our own trained crews. Joshua knows every one by name.

Are you licensed and insured?

Licensed CAL-T, fully insured. COIs for buildings issued same-day.

Is the estimate binding? What's included?

Clear written estimates — wrapping, floor protection, and disassembly included, no surprise line items.

Can I see references or reviews?

★ 4.8 on Google (110+ reviews) and ★ 4.8 on Yelp (276 reviews).

Who do I call if something goes wrong?

Joshua, directly: 415-499-2093. No call center.

YOUR MOVE DETAILS

MOVE DATE _____

ARRIVAL WINDOW _____

MOVING FROM _____

MOVING TO _____

ESTIMATE # _____

ESTIMATE TOTAL _____

COI NEEDED? _____

STORAGE NEEDED? _____

NOTES _____

WHOM TO NOTIFY – BAY AREA EDITION

The agencies and accounts that need your new address, starting with the California deadlines.

GOVERNMENT

- ☐ **USPS forwarding** — usps.com; forwards for one year
- ☐ **CA DMV** — due within 10 days of moving (dmv.ca.gov)
- ☐ **Voter registration** — registertovote.ca.gov
- ☐ **IRS + CA Franchise Tax Board**
- ☐ **Social Security Administration**
- ☐ **USCIS** — non-citizens must update within 10 days
- ☐ **Pet licensing** — new county or city

USPS forwards most mail for a full year — but not all government checks. Moving between filing and your refund? File IRS Form 8822.

GETTING AROUND

- ☐ **FasTrak** — update address + plates
- ☐ **Clipper card** — new commute, new pass (BART, Caltrain, VTA, Muni)
- ☐ **Auto insurance** — CA rates change by ZIP
- ☐ **Residential parking permit** — if your new neighborhood requires one
- ☐ **Airline + roadside programs** — frequent-flyer, AAA

California requires a DMV address change within 10 days of moving — one of the shortest deadlines in the country. It takes five minutes online.

MONEY

- ☐ **Banks + credit unions**
- ☐ **Credit cards + charge accounts**
- ☐ **Car loans + finance companies**
- ☐ **Investment + retirement accounts**
- ☐ **Financial aid office** — if anyone’s in school

OTHERS

HOME + UTILITIES

- ☐ **PG&E** — or city power: Palo Alto Utilities, Silicon Valley Power, Alameda Municipal
- ☐ **Water district** — varies by city
- ☐ **Trash + recycling** — Recology or GreenWaste, depending on city
- ☐ **Internet + cable**
- ☐ **Home security company**
- ☐ **Homeowners / renters insurance**
- ☐ **HOA or landlord** — move-out notice, deposits, elevator booking
- ☐ **Deliveries** — meal kits, water, packages

PEOPLE + SERVICES

- ☐ **Employer + HR**
- ☐ **Doctors, dentist, pharmacy**
- ☐ **Veterinarian**
- ☐ **Schools + daycare**
- ☐ **Attorney + accountant**
- ☐ **Magazine + periodical subscriptions**
- ☐ **Streaming + online shopping accounts**

Magazines and periodicals want six weeks' notice — flag them first so you don't miss an issue.

COMMUNITY

- ☐ **Friends + family**
- ☐ **Alumni associations**
- ☐ **Church, clubs + organizations**
- ☐ **Charities + nonprofits**
- ☐ **Gym + memberships**
- ☐ **Neighborhood groups** — Nextdoor, listservs

OTHERS

TAKE A HOME INVENTORY

Catalogue each room as you pack, and keep this list (with receipts) somewhere safe after the move — it’s invaluable for insurance claims. Photograph or video every room before boxes close, focusing on significant items.

LIVING ROOM

	ORIGINAL PRICE	YEAR	MODEL / SERIAL #
Carpeting / rugs			
Sofas			
Coffee + side tables			
Table & chairs			
Media center			
Shelves			
Curtains / blinds			
Lamps / light fixtures			
Art / clocks / wall décor			
Fireplace fixtures			

Tip: don’t overlook small but valuable items, like personal collections.

DINING ROOM

	ORIGINAL PRICE	YEAR	MODEL / SERIAL #
Rug			
Table			
Chairs			
China cabinet / buffet			
Silverware			
China			
Glassware			
Tablecloths / napkins			
Art / wall décor			
Lamps / light fixtures			

Tip: tape cabinet and furniture doors closed for the move — we bring shrink wrap for the rest.

KITCHEN + LAUNDRY

	ORIGINAL PRICE	YEAR	MODEL / SERIAL #
Cabinets / shelving			
Table & chairs			
Dishware / flatware / glassware			
Pots / pans			
Refrigerator			
Stove			
Microwave			
Dishwasher			
Small appliances			
Washer / dryer			
Ironing board / steamer			
Vacuum cleaner			

*Tip: don't forget items behind pantry doors, in cabinets,
and in drawers.*

ELECTRONICS

	ORIGINAL PRICE	YEAR	MODEL / SERIAL #
Television #1			
Television #2			
Camera / video equipment			
Computer / laptop			
Printer / external drives			
Speakers / stereo system			
Streaming devices			
Telephones / mobile			
Tablets			
Video game systems			
Routers / smart home			
Chargers / cables			

*Tip: photograph how cords connect before unplugging –
future you will be grateful.*

BEDROOMS

	ORIGINAL PRICE	YEAR	MODEL / SERIAL #
Bedframe			
Mattress			
Linens			
Nightstands			
Dresser			
Jewelry			
Bookcase			
Desk + chair			
Mirror			
Lamps / light fixtures			
Closet accessories			
Clothes / shoes			

Tip: check your coverage limits on valuables like jewelry with your insurance agent before the move.

FAMILY ROOM + OFFICE

	ORIGINAL PRICE	YEAR	MODEL / SERIAL #
Carpeting / rugs			
Sofas			
Curtains / blinds			
Table & chairs			
Desk & contents			
Bookcases			
File cabinet			
Media center			
Lamps / light fixtures			
Art / clocks / wall décor			

Tip: back up computers before moving day, and carry drives and laptops in your own car.

BATHROOMS

	ORIGINAL PRICE	YEAR	MODEL / SERIAL #
Cabinets / chests			
Mirrors			
Room décor			
Bath towels			
Clothes hamper			
Medicine cabinet contents			
Hair dryers / shavers			

MISCELLANEOUS

Exercise equipment			
Toys / games			
Trunks / luggage			
Seasonal décor			
Earthquake kit			

GARAGE + OUTDOORS

	ORIGINAL PRICE	YEAR	MODEL / SERIAL #
Tools			
Ladders			
Work bench			
Grill / barbecue equipment			
Lawn mower			
Lawn furniture			
Sporting equipment			
Storage equipment			
Bikes / scooters			

Tip: drain fuel from power equipment before the move – movers can’t transport gasoline, propane, or paint.

TOO MUCH STUFF?

Anything you inventory but don’t want to move can go to donation, haul-away, or our included storage. Ask when you book.

Print extra copies of this page, cut along the borders, and tape one to the top and one side of each box.
Write the destination room on the blank ones.

KITCHEN	<i>Joshua's</i>
CONTENTS	
BOX # ____ OF ____	☐

LIVING ROOM	<i>Joshua's</i>
CONTENTS	
BOX # ____ OF ____	☐

PRIMARY BEDROOM	<i>Joshua's</i>
CONTENTS	
BOX # ____ OF ____	☐

BATHROOM	<i>Joshua's</i>
CONTENTS	
BOX # ____ OF ____	☐

	<i>Joshua's</i>
CONTENTS	
BOX # ____ OF ____	☐

	<i>Joshua's</i>
CONTENTS	
BOX # ____ OF ____	☐

FRAGILE		THIS SIDE UP
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OPEN FIRST · FIRST NIGHT

YOUR FIRST NIGHT, DONE RIGHT

Resist the urge to unpack everything. Beds first, kitchen box second, takeout third. The rest can wait until tomorrow.

FIRST-DAY BOX 1 · FOR THE HOUSE

- ☐ Cleaning basics: paper towels, sponge, all-purpose cleaner
- ☐ Essential tools: hammer, wrench, screwdriver, nails
- ☐ Trash bags + a flashlight
- ☐ Furniture straps for tall pieces — earthquake country

FIRST-DAY BOX 2 · FOR YOU

- ☐ Toilet paper (two rolls) + toiletries
- ☐ Daily medicine + ibuprofen + bandages
- ☐ Paper plates, cups, cutlery for the takeout dinner
- ☐ Sheets, towels, chargers, coffee for morning one

ON YOUR FIRST NIGHT

- ☐ **Meet your home.** Explore it, play with the light switches, learn its sounds. A few pangs for the old place are normal.
- ☐ **Find the gas shutoff + strap tall furniture.** Do both while you still remember where the wrench is. This is earthquake country.
- ☐ **Take pictures.** The empty rooms will never look like this again — great for decorating decisions and “then vs. now.”
- ☐ **Relax.** Hot shower, takeout, bed. Tomorrow is for boxes — and they'll still be there.

Less talk, more moving.

Ready to book, or just want advice on your date? Call Joshua directly — the owner picks up.

415-499-2093

MOVINGPALOALTO.COM · ★ 4.8 GOOGLE (110+) · ★ 4.8 YELP (276)



SCAN TO GET A QUOTE