



# Easy Moves: A South Coast MA Moving Checklist





# Introducing OUR TEAM



**John-Paul Landry**  
Realtor in RI and MA

John-Paul is the team's digital marketing specialist and an innovative Realtor® serving Massachusetts and Rhode Island. His dynamic use of social media, targeted online advertising, and data-driven analytics ensures each listing reaches the ideal audience. A dedicated advocate praised for his responsiveness and energy, he partners closely with clients to simplify the home-buying process and provide expert advice—from open houses to closing—backed by real feedback from satisfied clients.



**Marc Landry**  
Realtor in RI and MA

Marc serves as Team Leader for The Landry Group, skillfully blending his deep expertise in real estate with a strong background in mortgage and insurance. Based in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, he guides clients through local market trends and financing options, empowering both first-time buyers and seasoned investors to make informed decisions. With Marc at the helm, the team leverages integrity, clear communication, and strategic insight to ensure a smooth journey from search to closing.



**Lori Landry**  
Real Estate Agent in RI  
and MA

Lori is a dedicated real estate professional with a strong background in both the mortgage and real estate industries, proudly serving clients throughout MA and RI. Known for her approachable demeanor and meticulous attention to detail, Lori is an invaluable resource for homeowners looking to prepare, price, and position their property strategically. Whether you're considering selling your current home or exploring your next move, Lori offers personalized service and expert guidance to help you make confident, informed decisions every step of the way.



# Welcome to Your Easy Move!

Moving can feel overwhelming—but it doesn't have to be. Whether you're headed to your dream home in Dartmouth, downsizing in New Bedford, or relocating across town in Fairhaven, this checklist was created to make your move as smooth as possible.

At The Landry Group, we know that buying or selling a home is more than a transaction—it's a life change. That's why we've designed this guide with helpful tips, timelines, and local insights specifically for families and individuals moving in and around the South Coast Massachusetts area.

## How to Use This Guide

- **Stay on Track:** Follow the timeline pages starting from six weeks out so you don't miss a step.
- **Tailor It to You:** Whether you're moving with pets, kids, or just across town—skip ahead to the sections that fit your situation.
- **Check It Off:** Use each section like a mini to-do list. Print it or keep the digital version handy on your phone.
- **Lean on Us:** Questions or need a vendor referral? Call, text, or DM us anytime—we're here to help before, during, and after your move.

Let's make this next chapter your best one yet.





# Let the Planning Begin!

*Get Organized, Declutter, and Build Your Moving Game Plan*



6

Weeks

## ☐ Arrange Your Move

- Book a moving company or truck. Need help? We're happy to recommend trusted South Coast movers.
- Compare quotes, and confirm availability—especially during peak summer months.
- If moving yourself, reserve equipment like an appliance dolly.

## ☐ Notify Important Contacts

- Schools, healthcare providers, vet clinics
- Memberships, alumni orgs, retirement services
- Don't forget to change your address with the USPS, banks, and insurance providers

## ☐ Stock Up on Supplies

- Boxes (check with local liquor stores in Fall River or New Bedford for free ones!)
- Tape, labels, rope, bubble wrap
- Markers for labeling by room and content

## ☐ Start Decluttering


- Sort into keep/donate/sell piles—yard sales do great in towns like Fairhaven and Swansea.
- Savers and other local donation drop offs are a great way to get rid of unwanted or unneeded items
- Local tip: Post items on South Coast swap groups on Facebook or list on Buy Nothing pages.





# Let the Planning Begin!

Get Organized, Declutter, and Build Your Moving Game Plan

  
**6**  
**Weeks**



## Plan Travel & Overnight Stays (If Needed)

- If relocating from out of town, book lodging in advance—check Dartmouth or Westport for short-term stays.
- Share your itinerary with a trusted friend or family member.



## Create a Moving Binder

- Keep all receipts, mover details, and important documents in one place (digital or printed).
- Track moving-related expenses for potential tax deductions—especially if it's job-related.



## Start a Packing Game Plan

- Begin with seasonal or rarely used items
- Save daily essentials for last
- Pro tip: Color-code box labels by room for easy unpacking!



## Connect with Your New Community Early

- Join local Facebook groups like “South Coast MA Moms” or “Greater New Bedford Community Events” to get a feel for what’s happening.
- Subscribe to local town newsletters—many towns like Acushnet and Somerset post helpful updates and local events.

*Six weeks out is the perfect time to take control of your move. By starting early, you'll reduce stress, avoid last-minute scrambles, and create a smoother experience for your entire household. From booking movers to notifying key contacts across the South Coast, these first steps set the tone for a confident and care-free move.*



# Details



4

Weeks

## Time to Lock in the Details

*Packing, Utilities, and Smart Logistics for a Smoother Move*



### Start Packing Non-Essentials

- Begin with storage areas, guest rooms, seasonal décor, and books.
- Label every box clearly—include room, contents, and “fragile” if needed.



### Schedule Utility Transfers

- Set up disconnects and reconnects for gas, electric, water, and internet.
- South Coast providers include Eversource, Liberty Utilities, Comcast, and Verizon Fios.



### Donate or Sell Unneeded Items

- Donate to Gifts to Give (Acushnet), Savers (Fall River), or local shelters.
- Host a garage sale—weekends in New Bedford and Somerset draw solid foot traffic.



### Handle Local Services

- Cancel or transfer your South Coast newspaper delivery, trash service, lawn care, and pest control.
- Let your local post office know your move date to forward mail.



### Confirm All Moving Details

- Double-check booking details with your moving company or truck rental.
- Confirm times, insurance, and any special item handling (pianos, safes, etc.)



the trouble  
detail n 1  
detail rt



4

Weeks

# Time to Lock in the Details

*Packing, Utilities, and Smart Logistics for a Smoother Move*



## Plan for Specialty Items

- Schedule removal or disassembly of things like gym equipment, swing sets, or large wall art.
- Movers often require advance notice for bulky or fragile pieces.



## Continue Address Updates

- Update licenses or car registration with the Massachusetts RMV if changing towns.
- Notify your employer, credit card companies, and health insurance providers.



## Prep Your New Home

- If possible, do a pre-move clean or arrange for professional cleaning.
- Consider paint or minor repairs before furniture arrives—easier now than later!



## Landry Group Tip:

- Create an “essentials” box filled with items you’ll need right away: paper towels, scissors, phone chargers, basic tools, coffee supplies, and toilet paper. Label it clearly and keep it with you!

*At four weeks out, it's time to shift into action mode. This is when the real prep begins—packing up what you don't use daily, locking in logistics, and starting your address and service updates. In the South Coast, timing matters—utilities, movers, and donations can fill up fast. Use this checklist to stay on top of the details and reduce last-minute stress as move-in day approaches.*





2

Weeks

# Countdown to Moving Day

*Confirm, Notify, and Fine-Tune the Final Steps*



## Confirm Movers or Truck Rental

- Reconfirm dates, arrival times, and insurance details.
- Ask if they need special parking permits for your new neighborhood.



## Notify and Transfer Utilities

- Call providers like Eversource, Liberty, Comcast, and Verizon Fios.
- Confirm disconnects at the old address and connects at the new one.



## Update Your Address

- Make sure your address is updated with the RMV, employer, bank, insurance, and subscriptions.
- Don't forget Amazon, pet services, and medical mailings.




## Pack Important Items Separately

- Gather passports, keys, chargers, prescription meds, and valuables.
- Keep them with you—don't let them go on the truck!



# Countdown to Moving Day

*Confirm, Notify, and Fine-Tune the Final Steps*

  
**2**  
**Weeks**

## ☐ Clean Out the Pantry & Garage

- Use up frozen food and perishable items.
- Safely dispose of paint, propane, and cleaning supplies that can't be moved.

## ☐ Plan First Night Bags

- Pack separate bags with pajamas, toiletries, snacks, and towels for the first 24 hours.
- Include phone chargers, a change of clothes, and anything your kids or pets will need to feel at home.

## ☐ Arrange Child & Pet Care

- Schedule a sitter or help for moving day—kids and pets can easily get overwhelmed.
- Local tip: Try Rover or reach out to trusted neighbors in Fall River or Dartmouth.

## ☐ Prep Appliances for the Move

- Defrost the fridge/freezer, disconnect washers, and secure cords.
- Check with movers about any special instructions.

*With just two weeks to go, it's time to tighten up your move. Confirm every detail, double-check logistics, and make sure everyone—from utility companies to your babysitter—is in the loop. These last-minute tasks make a big difference in how stress-free your move-in day will be, especially in the busy South Coast region.*





# Moving with Pets

*How to Keep Your Furry (or Feathered!) Friends  
Happy and Safe*



## Update Their Info

- Check ID tags for current phone number and new address
- Update microchip registration with your new contact details
- Request vet records and prescriptions



## Prep for Moving Day

- Book a pet sitter, daycare, or prep a quiet room
- Avoid putting pets in the center of the chaos
- Local boarders: New Bedford, Fairhaven, Dartmouth



## Create a Calm Space in the New Home

- Set up a room with familiar bedding, toys, and scents
- Introduce them slowly to other areas once unpacked



## Pack a Pet Travel Bag

- Include food, water, bowls, leash, meds, waste bags, crate, and a favorite toy
- Bring it with you—not in the moving truck



## Plan for Safe Travel

- Take frequent breaks if driving
- Keep pets in carriers or seatbelt harnesses
- Call ahead to confirm pet-friendly hotels if staying overnight



## Find Local Pet Resources

- Research new vets and emergency pet care
- Ask us for trusted local referrals—we're happy to help!

*Moves can be stressful for pets too. A little planning goes a long way to keeping them calm, safe, and cared for during the transition. Here's how to move smoothly with your four-legged (or winged) companions across South Coast MA.*



# Moving with Kids

*Easing the Transition and Keeping Things Positive for Your Little Ones*



## Talk About the Move Early

- Be honest and age-appropriate about what's happening
- Allow space for their feelings—listen more than you explain
- Reassure them they'll stay in touch with friends and family



## Plan a Thoughtful Goodbye

- Host a farewell playdate, party, or video call with friends
- Encourage them to write cards or exchange drawings



## Ease Into the New Routine

- Unpack their room first to create a sense of normalcy
- Explore your new town together—find the best parks, ice cream spots, or libraries in South Coast MA
- Stay extra present those first few days—especially after school



## Get Them Involved

- Let kids help pack their own boxes or decorate them
- Create a moving countdown calendar together
- Visit the new home or neighborhood if possible—walk by the school, see the local playgrounds



## Preserve Their Comfort Items

- Keep favorite toys, blankets, books, or games with you (not in the truck)
- Prepare a small “first night” bag with essentials



## Make Travel Fun

- Pack car or plane games, snacks, music, and surprises
- Frequent breaks on long drives can keep everyone calm


*Moving can be a big deal for kids—new routines, new faces, and a brand-new environment. Whether they're toddlers or teens, helping them feel included and informed makes all the difference. Here's how to support your kids through your South Coast move with care and confidence.*





# It's Almost Go Time

*Final Prep, Cleaning, and Getting Your First Night Box Ready*

  
**1**  
**Week**

## ☐ **Finish Packing & Label Clearly**

- Pack room by room and double-check boxes for fragile items
- Use a color code or label system for easy unloading
- Don't forget to tape hardware (like screws) to furniture pieces

## ☐ **Defrost & Clean Appliances**

- Unplug and clean the fridge and freezer 24–48 hours before moving
- Empty, clean, and air out washers, dryers, and ovens

## ☐ **Confirm Final Details**

- Call your mover or rental company to reconfirm time, location, and any instructions
- Print a copy of the moving day schedule and emergency contacts list

## ☐ **Disassemble Furniture**

- Take apart beds, tables, and larger items now
- Keep tools, screws, and assembly instructions in a labeled bag or container

## ☐ **Prepare a First Night Box**

- Include: sheets, towels, toilet paper, soap, chargers, snacks, and pet/kid essentials
- Pack like you're going on a weekend trip—anything you'll need in the first 24–48 hours

## ☐ **Clean Your Current Home**

- Do a deep clean or hire a local service
- Make it move-in ready for the next occupants—especially if you're a seller

*You're in the home stretch! With just days to go, it's time to finalize packing, prep your old and new homes, and get organized for a smooth transition. This is your week to clean, confirm, and prepare for a calm, successful move—South Coast style.*



# Moving Day



1–3  
Days

## Moving Day Musts

*What to Carry, What to Check, and What to Expect*



### Keep These Items With You

- Wallet, ID, keys, phone + charger
- Medications, snacks, pet/kid items
- First night box + important documents



### Do a Final Walkthrough

- Check all closets, drawers, basement, attic, garage
- Turn off lights, shut windows, and lock up
- Leave keys, garage openers, and notes for the new owner (if applicable)



### Protect Your Floors & Walls

- Use blankets, rugs, or cardboard for high-traffic areas
- Wrap banisters, corners, and fragile door frames



### Stay Hydrated & Fed

- Have water bottles and quick meals ready
- Take short breaks throughout the day—pace yourself



### Supervise the Load-Out

- Guide movers on what goes where
- Confirm everything is loaded before the truck pulls away



### Check New Home Before Unloading

- Confirm utilities are on
- Walk through your new space and decide where boxes go
- Unlock windows, test lights, and prep a small area to settle in

*It's here—moving day! All your prep comes together now. This page is your calm-in-the-chaos checklist to make sure nothing important is left behind and your essentials are close at hand. You're just hours away from your new beginning on the South Coast.*



H  ME



0

Days

# Welcome Home

*Unpack Smart, Get Settled, and Connect with Your New Community*



## Unpack the Essentials First

- Tackle the “first night” and kitchen boxes before anything else
- Set up beds early—you’ll thank yourself tonight
- Focus on one room at a time to avoid overwhelmed.



## Check Utilities & Internet

- Make sure gas, electric, water, and internet are working
- Report any issues to your provider right away



## Register with the Town

- Update your voter registration and vehicle info at the RMV
- Check your town’s website for transfer station permits, beach stickers, and local events



## Explore Your New Neighborhood

- Take a walk or drive around to spot parks, coffee shops, and playgrounds
- Introduce yourself to a neighbor or two—South Coast folks are friendly!



## Secure Your Home

- Change locks or keypad codes if needed
- Set up or transfer your security system



## Celebrate the Move!

- Order from a local favorite
- Host a housewarming party with those who matter most.
- Take a photo in front of your new home and tag us we’d love to share in your celebration!

*You did it! Now it’s time to settle in, take a breath, and make your new house feel like home. This page walks you through your first few days—unpacking essentials, confirming services, and getting plugged into the South Coast community.*



# Your South Coast Starter Kit

*Utilities, Services, and Local Favorites to Know Right Away*



## Utilities & Services

- Electric & Gas: Eversource, Liberty Utilities
- Internet & Cable: Comcast/Xfinity, Verizon Fios
- Water/Sewer: Check with your town hall (Fairhaven, Dartmouth, etc.)
- Trash & Recycling: Town-specific—visit your local DPW site



## Town Halls & Registrations

- RMV: [mass.gov/rmv](https://mass.gov/rmv) – update licenses and vehicle registration
- Voter Registration: Register at your new address at [sec.state.ma.us](https://sec.state.ma.us)
- School Enrollment: Contact your local school department to transfer or register



## Stay Connected

- Join local Facebook groups (e.g., “South Coast MA Families” or “Fairhaven Community Page”)
- Follow town Instagram accounts and sign up for local newsletters
- Reach out to us anytime—we’re local, and we’re here for you long after closing day



## Local Services & Shops

- Hardware: Koopman Lumber (Fairhaven), Ace Hardware (Fall River)
- Storage: Simply Self Storage (New Bedford), CubeSmart (Dartmouth)
- Groceries: Market Basket, Stop & Shop, and local farms like Alderbrook in Westport



## Explore Your Community

- Parks & Trails: Buttonwood Park, Fort Phoenix, Lloyd Center
- Libraries: Millicent Library (Fairhaven), Fall River Public Library
- Coffee Shops: Mirasol’s (Dartmouth), The Baker (New Bedford)