



— Moving — TO COLORADO!

HELPFUL RESOURCES AND TO DO'S
FOR YOUR MOVE!



MOVING TO

Colorado

I created this guide to share some fun facts about Colorado and help with your transition to your new state!

Colorado Moving Checklist

There's a lot that goes into moving to a new state, and that's after you've taken care of all the packing, cleaning, lifting, moving companies, rental agreements, mortgages, jobs... (the list goes on – yeah, it's a lot!) Well, after the fun part is taken care of, there are a few more things you'll want to make sure you check off your list when moving to Colorado.

Below is what's include in this guide:

- Fun Facts
- What to Expect
- Updating your address.
- Getting your Colorado driver's license.
- Registering your car.
- Getting a new car insurance policy for Colorado.
- Registering to vote.
- Getting health insurance.
- Getting the other insurance policies you may need.
- Taking care of your financial details – banks, loans, investments, etc.
- Enrolling your child in your new school district.
- Preparing for Colorado taxes.
- Getting a license for your pets and finding a local veterinarian.
- Set up your utilities.
- Moving Checklist

It might sound like a lot. But that's one of the reasons why I created this guide: to make all the things that go along with moving much easier. Following, you'll find the specific details, tips, and links to make each of those tasks a breeze. Before you know it, you'll be kicking off your shoes and feeling like a Colorado local!

COLORADO

Highlights

Fun Facts about Colorado!

Colorado is the 38th state of the United States that lies in the western region. To its north is Wyoming, to its south is New Mexico, to its east is Kansas, and to its west is Utah.



What is the capital of Colorado?

The capital of Colorado is Denver.

Denver is located in Denver County with a population of 715,522.

The Denver metro area has a population of 2.97 Milion.

What is the population of Colorado?

The population of Colorado based on 2020 US Census data is 5,773,714.

What is the largest city in Colorado?

The largest city in Colorado is Denver.

What is the size of Colorado?

Colorado is 104,094 square miles, making it the 8th largest state in the U.S.

What is the state motto of Colorado?

The state motto of Colorado is: *Nil sine numine* (Nothing without the divine will). Colorado's secular miners used to joke that the motto meant "nothing without a new mine" when the state was still in its infancy.

What is the state bird of Colorado?

The state bird of Colorado is the Lark bunting.



What is the state flower of Colorado?

The state flower of Colorado is the Rocky Mountain Columbine.



What is the state tree of Colorado?

The state tree of Colorado is the Colorado Blue Spruce.



COLORADO

Highlights

What to Expect when Moving to Colorado?

Colorado is an easy place to fall in love with, and a great place to call home. Here's what you can expect when you live here. Colorado is a beautiful state, with lots to do all year round. It's outdoor activities and natural wonders are some of the best in the world. It has friendly people and it's relatively affordable! There are also many job opportunities here for those who want them.

Remember, the weather changes quickly here (especially during winter), so always be prepared! And if you're not used to the altitude, that may take some adjustment as well.

Our summers can get really hot too; our average high temperature for July is 90 degrees Fahrenheit or higher! Here are some reasons to love living in Colorado:

- It's a great place to be outdoors. Hiking, biking and skiing are just some of the many outdoor activities you can enjoy in Colorado!
- The state is also home to national parks like Rocky Mountain National Park, Mesa Verde National Park and more. You'll never run out of things to do here – there's always something new around every corner.
- The seasons are beautiful around the state.
- People love moving here! Colorado has lower costs than many other popular states out west.

Notable Destinations and Landmarks in Colorado

Our Colorado moving guide wouldn't be complete without a brief mention of some of the most iconic destinations in the state. When you get settled in, a road trip may just be in order. One of the most iconic landmarks in Colorado is Red Rocks Park.

National Parks that you can visit in Colorado include:

- Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park
- Great Sand Dunes National Park
- Mesa Verde National Park
- Rocky Mountain National Park
- National Monuments that you can find in Colorado include:
- Browns Canyon National Monument
- Canyons of the Ancients National Monument
- Chimney Rock National Monument
- Colorado National Monument
- Dinosaur National Monument
- Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument
- Hovenweep National Monument
- Yucca House National Monument

These destinations are all great places to visit when you get a chance!

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1. Update your Address with the USPS

The first step to take is updating your address with the USPS and forwarding your mail.

Luckily, this is an easy one. You'll need to:

- Visit the official USPS Change-of-Address website at: <https://moversguide.usps.com/mgo/disclaimer>
- Enter your contact information.
- Select a date to start forwarding your mail. This can be no more than 30 days prior to or 3 months after today.
- Provide your old address and your new address.
- Provide a credit card for the \$1.05 fee to verify your identity. (If a website is asking you to pay more than this, it's a scam – run away!) You'll receive a confirmation email and letter once you've set it up.

After that, most of your mail pieces will automatically forward for 12 months. That should give you plenty of time to update your address with any friends, family, or businesses who still have your old address on file.

You should also take the time to update your address with any subscriptions you have like magazines, pet food, and meal boxes, as well as your saved address for shipping from online stores like Amazon. These types of shipments and packages will typically NOT be automatically forwarded. State Driver's License to Colorado.

2. Transfer an Out-of-State Driver's License to Colorado

The next big step is surrendering your out-of-state license and applying for your Colorado license. When you move to Colorado, you'll need to apply for a driver's license 30 days after establishing your residency. To do so, you'll need to visit your local driver's license office and:

- Complete an application for a new Colorado driver's license
- Provide proof of your identity and citizenship/legal presence – (this can usually be your VALID driver's license from your previous state)
- Provide proof of your address and residency in Colorado. Which typically includes 2 documents, such as:
 - Lease agreements or mortgage statements
 - Bank statements
 - Utility bills
 - Pay stubs
- Pass an eye exam
- Pass the driver's license written exam
- Take a new picture
- Pay the application fees

In most cases, you will not need to take the road test. In Colorado, Driver's license transactions are handled by the Division of Motor Vehicles, or DMV. For official information, online services, and to find your local office, visit their website at:

<https://dmv.colorado.gov/>

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3. Register & Title your Car in Colorado

Along with getting your Colorado driver's license, you'll also need to transfer your vehicle registrations and titles to Colorado within 90 days of becoming a resident. To do so, you'll need to:

- Visit your local DMV office.
- Complete an application for a new vehicle registration/title.
- Provide your proof of ownership documents (e.g. your previous state's registration and title).
- Pay the registration fees and taxes.
- Pass any required VIN inspections, vehicle safety inspections, and emissions tests.

After that, you'll be able to swap out your old license plates for your brand-new Colorado plates.

Be sure to check with your old state's DMV to see if you'll need to send back your license plates.

While you're at it, it's also worth submitting a Change of Address notification to your old state DMV to inform them that your vehicle is no longer registered there. Alternatively, you can typically let them know if they send you another renewal notice.

In Colorado, vehicle registration and title transactions are handled by the Division of Motor Vehicles, or DMV. For official information, online services, and to find your local office, visit their website at: <https://dmv.colorado.gov/>

4. Update your Car Insurance Policy

One more thing to do with your car when moving is updating your insurance policy.

Each state has slightly different requirements when it comes to car insurance. Which means, your old policy may not cut it or cover you if you get into an accident in Colorado. You are required to hold a car insurance policy for the Colorado in which you live and drive your vehicle.

In Colorado, the minimum car insurance requirements are:

- \$25,000 bodily injury liability per person
- \$50,000 bodily injury liability per accident
- \$15,000 property damage liability per accident

Depending on your driving habits, the drivers listed on your policy, and the type of car you drive, you'll probably want to opt for some additional coverage beyond the minimums. In general, you should schedule your new policy to kick in once you'll start driving in your new state permanently. Once you know your moving date, shop around for quotes from different providers to see who can offer you the best rates.

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5. Register to Vote in Colorado

Next up – voter registration!

Sometimes you'll have the option of doing this when you apply for your Colorado driver's license or update your address.

If not, you'll want to make sure to register ASAP so that you'll be eligible to vote in any upcoming elections.

To get started on your voter registration application, find information about your local polling places, districts, and representatives, visit the official Colorado voter website at: <https://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/UOCAVA.html>

6. Update your Health Insurance and Find Healthcare Providers in Colorado

When you move to another state, you'll need to update your health insurance and find new healthcare providers – doctors, dentists, optometrists, oh my!

Moving to a different state qualifies you for a Special Enrollment Period. This means that you're able to change and update your health insurance plan outside of Open Enrollment.

If you haven't already done so through your employer, you can search for and update your health insurance coverage on the official Colorado health insurance website at: <https://connectforhealthco.com/>.

You may also want to check in with your current doctors about getting copies of your medical records or finding out what will need to be done to get your records to your new providers.

7. Update Any Other Insurance Policies

More insurance... yeah, it's a lot. But, when you need it, you'll be glad you have it!

Along with your car insurance policy and health coverage, you'll also want to be sure to compare quotes and update any other policies you had or will need, including:

- Home insurance
- Pet insurance
- Boat insurance
- RV coverage
- Motorcycle insurance

As with your car insurance policy, it's definitely worth comparing quotes to get the best rates before you switch. Plus, if you need different policies, you may be able to get a deal with your insurance company when you bundle. This is a great way to save some serious cash – which is always a plus during a move.

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8. Update Any Banking, Loan, and Financial Information

Next up – and highly important – is your finances.

When you move, you'll want to make sure to update your address with your:

- Bank
- Investment companies
- Lenders
- Credit cards

While your USPS mail forwarding will send any important documents from these institutions from your new address, you should be sure to update the address they have on file as soon as possible.

9. Find your Child's Colorado School District and Get them Enrolled

If you have children, you'll want to get them ready for school. Before you move, inform your previous school district that you'll need copies of your child's school records and transcripts. You'll also need to be prepared to submit your child's vaccine records to the new school.

Once you get settled, you'll be ready with everything you need for the new school district to get them started.

10. Get Ready to File a Tax Return in Colorado

State Taxes – definitely not something anyone looks forward to, but an important thing to think about and prepare for when you move. For more information about paying taxes and filing returns in Colorado, please visit the official state tax website at: <https://tax.colorado.gov/>.

Remember, when you move to a new state, you'll typically need to file a state tax return for your old state as well.

In most cases, your tax liability will be split between each state by the percentage of the year you spent there. Talk to a tax professional if you have questions about your specific situation.

11. Register your Pets & Find a Veterinarian

Don't forget your fur babies when you move! Moving can be just as stressful and exciting for your pets as it can be for you. Along with making them feel comfortable during the move and in their new home, there are also a few pieces of admin you should take care of.

First, you'll want to check with your new city or county if you'll need to license and register your cat, dogs, and other animals. Be prepared to submit proof of vaccinations and pay a licensing fee if a pet license is required.

Next, you'll want to find a local vet. Before you move, it's also a good idea to speak with your previous veterinarian office for copies of your pet's medical records. This can make the transition to a new office much easier.

And while you're at it, it's a great time to consider a pet insurance policy to cover any emergencies and standard procedures throughout the year.

COLORADO MOVING

checklist

12. Utilities

Last on the list, but certainly not least – is making sure you've coordinated all of your utility services. This includes:

- Gas and electricity
- Water
- Trash services
- Internet
- Cable
- Phone services

Before you move out, notify your current utility providers of your end of service date and pay your final bill.

Before you move into your new home, be sure to contact your local utility providers to set up an account to make sure you have service when you arrive.

MOVING

checklist

6-8 WEEKS BEFORE YOUR MOVE

- ☐ Make an inventory of everything to be moved.
- ☐ Sort and donate unwanted clothing or furniture.
- ☐ Have a garage sale to get rid of items you no longer need.
- ☐ Collect moving supplies like boxes/newspaper for packing.
- ☐ Submit a change of address form to your post office.
- ☐ Choose your moving company. Confirm arrangements.
- ☐ Research items that can't be moved by moving company.
- ☐ Arrange for storage in your new community (if necessary).

4-6 WEEKS BEFORE YOUR MOVE

- ☐ Start packing by boxing up items you rarely use.
- ☐ Have rugs and draperies you are taking with you, cleaned; leave wrapped when returned.
- ☐ Obtain written appraisal of antique items to verify value.
- ☐ If applicable, book the moving elevator and confirm parking access for truck.
- ☐ Contact your insurance co. to transfer policies as needed.
- ☐ Prepare a list of people and companies to notify of move.
- ☐ Arrange to be off work on moving day.
- ☐ Address minor home repairs before moving out.

2-4 WEEK BEFORE YOUR MOVE

- ☐ Start actively packing the rest of your home room by room.
- ☐ Box up what you can. Boxes should be taped shut and stackable.
- ☐ Clean your home or arrange for a cleaning company to come in.
- ☐ Check furniture for dents and scratches.
- ☐ Label items you need to access easily.
- ☐ Clean out refrigerator/plan to defrost and dry day before move.
- ☐ Drain equipment: water hoses, propane tank, lawnmowers.
- ☐ Confirm travel arrangements for pets and family.
- ☐ Arrange for the cut-off/activation dates for your cable, gas, electricity, water, and garbage.
- ☐ Disassemble unused bedroom sets to save time.
- ☐ Bundle appliance manuals/warranties for the new occupants.
- ☐ Photograph electronics before unplugging for easy re-assembly.
- ☐ Pack a lock box w/jewelry, cash & valuables to take in your car.

MOVING DAY

- ☐ Clear a path out of the house.
- ☐ Determine which boxes and items should be loaded last, and let your movers know.
- ☐ Ensure loose items are packed in boxes.
 - ☐ All boxes are labeled with their destination room in your new home on the top and sides of each box.
- ☐ No contents are in your appliances.
- ☐ All items are removed from top of furniture, cupboards, etc.
- ☐ Linens are removed from beds.
- ☐ All rooms, closets, cabinets have been checked for misplaced/remaining items.
- ☐ Disassemble the remaining bedroom sets.
- ☐ Be at your new location to direct movers as to where items should be placed.

OVERNIGHT ESSENTIALS BOX

- ☐ Toiletries, Hand Wipes
- ☐ Medications
- ☐ Change of Clothes
- ☐ Toilet Paper
- ☐ Phone Chargers
- ☐ Snacks/Coffee
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Garbage Bags
- ☐ Paper Towels
- ☐ Dish Soap and Towel
- ☐ Pet Food and Dish ☐ Portable Tool Kit
- ☐ Minimal Cleaning Supplies
- ☐ Mug/Plate/Cutlery

Before you leave the house....

- ☐ Water shut off
- ☐ Lights shut off
- ☐ All windows closed and locked
- ☐ Surrender house keys
- ☐ Check one more time for any left-behind items
- ☐ Turn down thermostat

YOUR *local* EXPERT



It's a pleasure getting to know you and helping you with this next chapter of your life!

Please let me know if you need any other resources or if there is anything else I can help with!

— *Mark Baker*

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