

Moving to Maine

The 30-Day Checklist

newhereinmaine.com

A practical, printable checklist for anyone relocating to Maine. Work through each section in order — the timing matters.

30 Days Before the Move

- Confirm your new address and check which electric utility covers it (CMP for southern/central/midcoast Maine, Versant Power for most of eastern and northern Maine)
 - Book movers or reserve a rental truck (summer books out fast)
 - Set up USPS mail forwarding to start on move day
 - Research your new town's school enrollment process and document requirements
 - Request copies of medical records from current providers and specialists
 - Research healthcare options — CoverME.gov for ACA, MaineCare for state Medicaid, or confirm employer network covers Maine facilities
 - Gather birth certificates, immunization records, prior school records for kids
 - Inventory what you're bringing vs. selling vs. donating
 - Notify landlord or list current home
-

14 Days Before the Move

- Call CMP or Versant to schedule electric service start (deposit may be required for new Maine residents)
 - Schedule internet installation (GWI, Consolidated, Spectrum, or Fidium depending on town — install slots book 1-3 weeks out)
 - Set up trash and recycling (varies by town — call the town office)
 - Arrange heating oil, propane, or pellet delivery (most Maine homes are not on natural gas)
 - Notify current state DMV and auto insurance of the move
 - Update address with employer, bank, credit cards, and subscriptions
 - Confirm moving day logistics with movers
 - Pack an "essentials box" — first 48 hours of clothes, toiletries, chargers, documents
-

Moving Day

- Photograph every utility meter (electric meter, oil tank level, propane gauge)
 - Confirm water is working — if on a well, locate the pump breaker and pressure tank
 - Locate septic tank and check last pump-out date (if not on town sewer)
 - Test every smoke and CO detector (required in Maine)
 - Find the main water shutoff and electric panel
 - Confirm keys work on all exterior doors and change locks if needed
 - Walk the property line if it's rural — know what's yours
-

Week 1

- Visit your new town office and introduce yourself
 - Register your vehicle (excise tax at town office first, then Maine BMV for plates and title — within 30 days of residency)
 - Get a Maine driver's license at the BMV (within 30 days — bring proof of identity, residency, and Social Security)
 - Get your vehicle inspected at any licensed Maine inspection station
 - Ask the town office about the Homestead Exemption (reduces assessed value on your primary residence)
 - Register to vote (Maine allows same-day voter registration)
 - Set up a local bank or credit union account if needed
 - Stock up on winter basics if moving in fall — salt, shovel, ice melt, emergency kit
-

Weeks 2-4

- Enroll kids in school (bring proof of residency, birth certificate, immunization records, prior school records)
- Find a primary care provider and schedule a new-patient appointment (Maine has a PCP shortage — expect a wait)
- Find a dentist and schedule a first visit
- Locate the nearest urgent care and hospital and save the numbers
- Update IRS, Social Security, and employer with new address
- File Homestead Exemption paperwork at the town office (before April 1 for that tax year)
- Meet your immediate neighbors — introduce yourself in person
- Join the town's Facebook group or local community page
- Find a veterinarian if you have pets
- Schedule a septic tank inspection if the home has one and service history is unclear

Stuff That Will Catch You Off Guard

- Check cell coverage at the specific address — rural Maine has real dead zones
 - Set up automatic heating oil delivery before January
 - Invest in winter tires if you're coming from a warm-weather state
 - Confirm whether your road is town-maintained or private — you may be responsible for plowing
 - Prepare for mud season (late March through April) — dirt roads can become impassable
 - Keep a full emergency kit in your vehicle from November through April
 - Stock up on groceries before any named storm — stores empty out fast
-

NewHereInMaine.com — A free guide for people moving to Maine

