

When You're Moving

What to do with what's not going with you

When moving, it's likely that not all of your possessions will go to your new home. This raises the question: what to do with what's not moving? Your options include:

Give to family or friends. Relatives and friends may find unwanted possessions useful, valuable or sentimental. Including people close to you can be a great first step in determining what should happen with some items that won't be moved.

Garage sales and estate sales. Garage sales are ideal for offloading cheaper items, while estate sales, often managed by professionals, are better for valuable possessions.

Charitable donations. Charities like local churches, the Red Cross and Goodwill often accept donations, though policies vary. Check ahead for drop-off requirements or potential removal fees.

"Junk" removal services. Quick and efficient, they will take almost anything you don't want. Pricing is based on the volume of material (though some services price by item) and fees are often added for items such as paint or tires.

Self-storage. Storing items can ensure future access or delay tough decisions about letting go. However, self-storage can become costly, with fees often exceeding the value of stored items and rates subject to unexpected hikes.



Disposing of hazardous waste

You should never pour household hazardous waste (HHW) down drains or on the ground—this can harm people, animals and the environment. Instead, look into proper disposal options, such as:

Collection programs. Check with your local waste management district or environmental health agency to learn about these programs or visit [Earth911.com](https://www.earth911.com).

Retail take-back programs. Some retailers accept certain types of HHW for recycling, such as used oil and antifreeze.

Mail-in disposal services. Some companies offer mail-in kits for specific HHW items, like expired medication or mercury thermometers.

Hazardous waste disposal facilities. By searching the internet for "hazardous waste disposal near me," you may find nearby organizations and services to help you properly dispose of HHW.