

Preparing to Move

Beyond moving boxes and scheduling a moving truck, here are some facts to consider before moving into your new home.

1. **Walk through the unit** - Before you sign the lease and pick up the keys to the rental unit, schedule a walk through of the unit to ensure it is in good condition to be moved into.
2. **Schedule a date to move** - Once you have signed your lease and paid your security deposit, schedule date with your landlord or property manager when you can move into your unit.
3. **Change Address** - Once the move date has been finalized and the lease has been signed, visit the USPS website to change your address to your new residential address.
4. **Set-up utilities and services** - Once the lease has been signed, unless otherwise directed by your landlord or property manager, set up your unit's electricity, natural gas, water, and cable and internet services in your name.
5. **Purchase renter's insurance** - Purchase renter's insurance once the lease has been finalized to protect your personal assets from theft and damage, to cover unforeseen circumstances such as injuries or accidents at your unit and to cover additional living expenses if your unit becomes uninhabitable.
6. **Do a fire safety check** - Make sure your rental unit has a fire extinguisher, fire alarm and carbon monoxide detector. If your unit does not have a fire extinguisher, fire alarm and carbon monoxide detector, request, in writing, these items from your landlord or property manager.
7. **Schedule a quality assessment** - Schedule a quality assessment of your rental unit's interior, exterior and common areas, if applicable, to assist you with your walk-through of your unit. An extra set of eyes will ensure that your unit is livable and safe.
8. **Know your rights and responsibilities** - Before you move in or after you move in to your unit, attend Rent Ready Norfolk's workshops on Becoming a Model Renter and VRTLA-Your Rights and Responsibilities as a Renter and read the Virginia Residential Tenant and Landlord Act to review and understand your rights and responsibilities as a renter in the Commonwealth of Virginia.