



Making it a Home: Checklist and Things to Consider

This tip sheet covers the things you should consider when you move into a new home including moving, utilities, telephone, furnishings, informing others of your change of address, transferring prescriptions, cleaning, and learning about your new neighbourhood.

Find a moving method

This may include truck rental or hiring movers. One option is Job Café moving through the Working Centre. Call 519-569-7566 ext. 229 or www.theworkingcentre.org/7854-job-cafe-moving-service. The cost is \$30 per hour for the truck and driver. Also see: Online www.yellowpages.ca or www.Kijiji.ca for movers; be sure to clarify rates and additional fees, preferably in writing, before you confirm your booking.

Arrange to have utilities disconnected and your account closed and/or connected at or transferred to new address

This may include water, hydro-electricity, gas (heat), sewage, cable, Internet, and telephone. Here are some quick tips:

- Confirm with your landlord which utilities you are responsible for and which companies service the unit.
- If possible, get estimates of usage under previous tenant(s) in order to estimate your potential costs.
- To ensure you are billed correctly, call or go into the utility office and let them know that you are moving or need to start a new account. Make sure you have the new address with you including postal code. You may need to confirm your identity, so be prepared to show government-issued identification (ID) if asked.
- If you don't have enough money for the full deposit ask if you can have the deposit deferred over 4 or 6 months (some companies may offer this option, particularly for persons with low-income).
- Ask about budget options or equal billing to spread payments over the year instead of having to budget more during colder months to pay for things like heating your home.
- If you receive social assistance (OW or ODSP), consider asking your worker to arrange for direct payment to the utility company.





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Local providers of hydro-electricity, natural gas, and water

Hydro-Electricity

- Cambridge and North Dumfries Hydro Inc. www.camhydro.com
- Kitchener-Wilmot Hydro Inc. www.kwhydro.ca
- Waterloo North Hydro Inc. www.wnhydro.com (serving the Waterloo, Wellesley & Woolwich townships)

Natural Gas

- City of Kitchener Utilities www.kitchenerutilities.ca
- Union Gas www.uniongas.com (Serving Cambridge, Waterloo and North Dumfries, Wellesley, Wilmot, and Woolwich townships)
- Compare prices of natural gas suppliers or electricity suppliers at Energy Shop www.energyshop.com or the Ministry of Energy <https://www.ontario.ca/page/ministry-energy-northern-development-and-mines>

Water

- City of Cambridge www.city.cambridge.on.ca
- City of Kitchener Utilities <https://www.kitchenerutilities.ca/en/index.asp>
- City of Waterloo www.city.waterloo.on.ca
- Township of North Dumfries www.township.northdumfries.on.ca
- Township of Wellesley www.township.wellesley.on.ca
- Township of Wilmot https://www.wilmot.ca/en/living-here/Water.aspx?_mid_=97973



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Telephone - landline and/or cellular service

- If you are transferring service to your new residence, this may be a good time to explore service options and opportunities to reduce your monthly spending.
- When contacting your provider you can ask to speak to someone in 'Customer Retention.' Let them know that you are moving and are considering switching providers and so would like to know what offers they are willing to make to keep your business.
- If you are open to trying a new provider, be sure to get rates from various companies and compare to get the best deal.
- Go to www.yellowpages.ca and search by community and key words (e.g., cell phone service).
- Common phone and cable providers locally:
 - Bell Canada - 310-bell (2355) or www.bell.ca; for a landline, call the office to have your phone hooked up. You will need your new address including the postal code. There will likely be a set-up fee and if you have never had service with them before, you may also be asked to pay a deposit/security fee.
 - Rogers Landline, TV, Internet - 1 866 210-4059; Wireless/cell service 1 855 877-3824 or go to www.rogers.com; call the office to have your phone and cable hooked up. You will need your new address including the postal code.

Plan to furnish and equip your home

This may include low-cost or free furniture and household goods. Here are some tips:

- Plan ahead so that you can ensure you have everything you need when you move in.
- Check out your local thrift shops for gently used affordable items - go to www.yellowpages.ca and search by community and keywords (e.g., thrift shop, used furniture); also check out the buy and sell pages of www.kijiji.ca.



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Contact friends, family, and service providers to share your moving date, new address and contact details

- Consider an address change for:
 - People/organizations such as friends, relatives, and/or religious groups.
 - Professional services such as a doctor or dentist.
 - Government services:
 - For Ontario Works (OW) or Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP), go to www.mcass.gov.on.ca and search “address change” in quotation marks.
 - For Canada Revenue Agency, Canada Pension Plan and/or Old Age Security, go to www.servicecanada.gc.ca and search “Changing your address.”
 - For Identity Documents: (e.g., Driver’s Licence, Ontario Photo Card) and Health card, go to www.ontario.ca and search “change your address.”
 - Service Ontario call centres are open Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 5pm, excluding holidays.
 - Phone: 416-326-1234 Toll-free 1-800-267-8097
 - TTY/Teletypewriter: 416-325-3408 Toll-free 1-800-268-7095
- If you are concerned you may forget to contact someone, arrange to have your mail forwarded; change your address through Canada Post; go to your local Canada Post office and pick up a “Change of Address” booklet (free); for a list of all Canada Post Retail Outlets in Waterloo Region, visit: www.yellowpages.ca and search “Canada Post.”
 - For Canada Post’s mail forwarding service, go to www.canadapost.ca or call 1-800-267-1177.

Transfer prescriptions - contact your local pharmacy

For a list of pharmacies in Waterloo Region, visit www.thehealthline.ca or call: 310-CCAC (no area code required) to reach the the Community Care Access Centre (CCAC).





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Things to Consider Once You Move

Clean and organize your home

- Before you unpack, take steps to wash and sanitize surfaces and consider how you will organize and store your items.
- Take stock - consider if you'll need the following:
 - Broom and dustpan, vacuum, mop and bucket, wash cloths and sponges;
 - Bins or tubs of various sizes to organize and store loose items; and
 - Nails or hooks to hang items such as pictures, a clock, etc.
- It's often best to clean before you unpack:
 - i.e., wipe down counters, cupboards, walls, and appliances with disinfectant; sweep and mop floors; vacuum and steam clean carpets, etc.
- As you unpack, place items in boxes, plastic tubs, etc., to organize small items and keep closets tidy, etc.
- Here's a list of resources to help you keep your unit in good condition and make your house feel like a home:
 - ❖ [How to clean your home before you move in](#)
 - ❖ [How to clean a house](#)
 - ❖ [Basic cleaning supply checklist](#)
 - ❖ Sample [daily](#), [weekly](#), and [monthly](#) cleaning schedules
 - ❖ [List of seasonal cleaning chores](#)
 - ❖ [5 Simple to set up chore charts](#)
 - ❖ Furniture and other household items - garage sales, thrift shops, faith organizations, and online "buy & sell" sites like [Kijiji](#) are a good place to start, but make sure you check items for cleanliness, wear, and signs of pests (e.g., bed bugs)



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Learn more about your new neighbourhood

This may include grocery stores, walk-in clinics, community centres, or places of worship.

- View www.google.ca/maps - Type in your new address and then search by category, e.g., grocery store, bank, medical, church, etc.
- Take a walk around your neighbourhood, making note of local points of interest.
- Go to www.welcomewagon.ca or call 1-844-299-2466 for a formal introduction to local businesses and services.

Locate low-cost sources of food in your neighbourhood

There are many low-cost and free food options available in Waterloo Region, including food banks/hampers, drop-in meal programs, and community gardens.

- For a summary of Drop-in and Meal Programs in Kitchener-Waterloo, go to www.regionofwaterloo.ca and search “drop-in and meal programs.”
- For a wallet card of drop-in and meal programs, contact 519-575-4757 ext. 2117.
- To find emergency and low-cost food in Waterloo Region, go to www.regionofwaterloo.ca and search “emergency low cost food sources” or call:
 - **Food Bank of Waterloo Region:**
519-573-5576 (Serving Kitchener-Waterloo)
 - **Cambridge Self-Help Food Bank:**
519-622-6550 (Serving Cambridge)
- For tips on how to **eat healthy on a budget** contact the dietitians at **Eat Right Ontario** for free information and resources: 1-877-510-5102 or www.eatrightontario.ca