

# TIPS ON HOW TO Plan a green move

Moving can be a big undertaking and require a lot of additional supplies. With a bit of planning and a few swaps, you can easily create a moving experience that is earth-friendly.

## Tips

- Conduct a “shopping audit” of your current home to reduce what you need to pack
- Join your local buy nothing group
- Check local retail shops for packing materials
- Consider the next life of items you do need to buy
- Creative reuse
- Plan your logistics carefully



## Strategies to follow

- **A month before your move, do a “shopping audit”**
  - Carefully think about purchases to avoid having to pack them
  - “Shop” your own cupboards - use up food you have on hand, which will reduce the amount of things you need to pack
- **Join your local Buy Nothing group**
  - These groups are a great resource to find moving supplies - often members of buy nothing groups have just finished their own move and have boxes and packing materials to spare
  - Pass along your unwanted items, or items that won't work in your new home
- **Check local retail shops for packing materials**
  - Liquor stores have sturdy boxes for drinking glasses and plates
  - Businesses have boxes and packing pillows or peanuts that they no longer need - politely ask if you can have them
- **Consider the next life of items you need to buy**
  - Purchase recyclable or compostable paper tape or packing materials
  - Return unused boxes to moving stores
  - Post used boxes and packing material to a buy nothing group
- **Creative reuse**
  - Use old t-shirts for cleaning rags or packing material instead of throwing them away
  - Repurpose cardboard tubes into wire organizers, or use plastic bottles to corral rolled up posters or art
- **Plan your logistics carefully**
  - Choose the right size moving vehicle to reduce trips
  - Minimize trips to storage units by having a storage container brought to you - you can fill it up and have it either stored until you need it, or it can be delivered directly to your new home

## Additional resources

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's "[Greening Your Next Move](https://www.pca.state.mn.us/greening-your-next-move)"  
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