



STORE SMART. MOVE EASY.

# College Move-Out Guide for Parents

Simple tips to make move-out  
and storage stress-free



PLAN  
AHEAD



STORE  
SMART



WE PICK UP.  
YOU RELAX.



WE DELIVER  
WHEN YOU'RE  
READY



For families with college  
students preparing for  
move-out and  
summer storage.



Less Stress.  
Smarter Storage.  
Smoother Moves.





# 1. Understand the Timeline



Move-in is typically assigned to a specific date and time slot.







Move-out timing often varies by dorm, exam schedule, or building rules.



Many students must leave within hours of their last exam.



Elevators, parking, and carts get crowded quickly.

MOVE-IN STRUCTURED	VS.	MOVE-OUT UNSTRUCTURED
		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Assigned date and time slot</li><li>✓ Planned in advance</li><li>✓ More predictable and organized</li></ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✗ Dates vary by dorm, exams, or rules</li><li>✗ Often last-minute and unpredictable</li><li>✗ More stressful and chaotic</li></ul>
		



**Move-in is structured.**  
**Move-out is not.**

This mismatch makes planning more difficult than most families expect.



**TIP:**  
Plan at least **2-3 weeks** in advance and build flexibility into your schedule.





## 2. Common Mistakes Parents Make

1



### Waiting until the last minute

Limited options, higher stress, and things get more expensive.



2



### Underestimating how much stuff has accumulated

It's always more than you think. Plan for extra space.



3



### Trying to move everything in one day

One day is rarely enough—and it leads to burnout.



4



### Bringing everything home "just in case"

It takes time, space, and you'll likely move it twice.

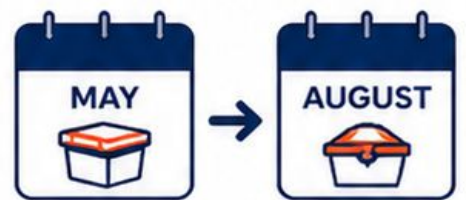


5



### Not planning for how it will all be moved back in a few months

The return trip is just as important as move-out day.



Most move-out stress comes from **lack of planning**—not the move itself.





# 3. What Are Your Storage Options?

Different options handle timing, effort, and logistics very differently—especially when move-out is unpredictable.

## 1 Take everything home



- ✓ No storage cost
- ✗ Time-consuming
- ✗ Requires space at home
- ✗ You'll need to move everything again in a few months

## 2 Nationwide student storage services



- ✓ Designed for students
- ✗ Often use cardboard boxes (less durable)
- ✗ May not handle larger items (desks, mirrors, etc.)
- ✗ Limited pickup and delivery windows
- ✗ May require dropping items at a central location

→ Can work, but often less flexible than expected.

## 3 Traditional self-storage units



- ✓ Full control over your items
- ✗ Requires renting a vehicle or truck
- ✗ You carry everything to and from the unit
- ✗ Contracts and coordination required
- ✗ You move everything twice (in and out)

→ More work than most families expect.

## 4 Local student-focused storage services



- ✓ Pickup directly from dorm or apartment
- ✓ Handles both totes and large items
- ✓ Stored locally for easy return
- ✓ Designed for repeat moves (move-out → storage → move-in)
- ✓ More flexible around student schedules

→ Best balance of convenience and flexibility.



### LOCAL STUDENT STORAGE OPTION

Services like Toterly are built around common move-out challenges:



Durable plastic totes (not cardboard)



Pickup directly from dorms or nearby housing



Handles large items like desks, mirrors, and mini-fridges



Multiple pickup and delivery windows



Designed to make both move-out and move-in easier



### 4. Packing Checklist (Start Early)



Begin packing non-essential items 2-3 weeks ahead



Clearly label everything



Separate items into: Take home, Store, Donate



Clean and empty appliances (especially refrigerators)



Disassemble furniture ahead of time if needed





## 4. Packing Checklist (Start Early)



1



**Begin packing non-essential items 2-3 weeks ahead**

Starting early reduces stress and gives you more time to stay organized.

2



**Clearly label everything**

Use labels or markers so you know what's inside each box or bin.

3

**Separate items into:**



Take home



Store



Donate

4



**Clean and empty appliances**

Especially refrigerators. Allow time to defrost and dry completely.

5



**Disassemble furniture**

Take apart beds, desks, and shelves ahead of time if needed.



## 5. What People Underestimate



**How much stuff builds up over the year**  
It's always more than you think.



**How difficult large items are to move**  
Desks, mattresses, mini-fridges, and more take extra time and effort.



**How quickly move-out day becomes crowded and stressful**  
Elevators, parking, and carts get busy fast.



**The difference between structured move-in and unpredictable move-out timing**  
Move-in is planned. Move-out is not. This mismatch creates challenges.



**That the entire process will need to be repeated in a few months**  
What you don't plan for now, you'll deal with again later.



**Planning for repeat moves makes everything easier.**



## 6. Simple Move-Out Timeline



PLAN AHEAD. STAY ORGANIZED. REDUCE STRESS. →



## 7. Do You Really Want to Bring It All Home?

Ask yourself:



Will these items be used over the summer?



Do you have space at home?



Do you want to move everything twice?



How will large items be handled again in the fall?



Most families find it easier to **store items locally.**



## Final Tip

The easiest move-outs are:



### PLANNED EARLY

Give yourself time and avoid the rush.



### FLEXIBLE AROUND TIMING

Expect changes and build flexibility into your plan.



### DESIGNED TO BE REPEATED

Plan for move-out, storage, and move-in—each semester.





# You've Got This. We've Got Your Back.

A little planning now makes move-out easier today—and move-in easier tomorrow.



## QUICK RECAP



Plan early to avoid last-minute stress.



Expect move-out timing to be unpredictable.



Moving everything twice creates unnecessary work.



The easiest solutions are designed for repeat moves.



## What Most Families Choose

Most families find that **local, student-focused storage** provides the best balance of convenience, flexibility, and reduced stress.

## Toterly Is Built For Student Move-Out

Services like **Toterly** are designed to:



Bring storage directly to the student



Handle both totes and large items



Eliminate the need to move items multiple times



Simplify both move-out and move-in



## Explore Your Options Early

Scheduling fills quickly during peak move-out periods.

Visit

[toterly.com](https://toterly.com)



STORE SMART. MOVE EASY.



Built to make student move-out easier—for both students and parents.