Halifax moving checklist

What to do before and after moving to Halifax, Nova Scotia. Skip any item that does not apply to your household.

Name _____ **Moving date** _____

Key deadlines

Health card	Coverage usually starts on the first day of the third month after you become a resident.
Driver's licence	You have 180 days to exchange your licence.
Vehicle	Official deadlines differ and can be as short as 30 days. Confirm with the Registry of Motor Vehicles in your first week.

Two to three months before

- [ ] Set a moving budget that includes overlapping rent or mortgage, deposits, temporary housing and storage.
- [ ] Read your lease and note the notice your current province requires. (if you rent)
- [ ] Ask your lender about porting or breaking your mortgage, and get the penalty in writing. (if you own)
- [ ] Get written moving quotes that state valuation coverage, delivery window and extra charges.
- [ ] Ask your employer what relocation costs are paid and which are taxable.
- [ ] Check whether your occupation is regulated in the new province and apply to the regulator. (licensed jobs)
- [ ] Contact schools and join child care waiting lists. (with children)
- [ ] Collect school records, report cards, assessments and support plans. (with children)
- [ ] Confirm the new home and city allow your pet. (with pets)
- [ ] Ask doctors, dentists and specialists how to transfer records, and ask about open referrals.

Two to four weeks before

- [ ] Refill prescriptions and ask your pharmacy to help transfer them.
- [ ] Buy private coverage for any gap in drug, ambulance or travel health benefits.
- [ ] Request immunization records for every family member.
- [ ] Request a driver's abstract and an insurance claims history letter. (with a vehicle)
- [ ] If your car is leased or financed, ask the lender whether it can be registered in another province. (with a vehicle)
- [ ] Get vet records and proof of rabies vaccination. (with pets)
- [ ] Set up Canada Post mail forwarding. A 12-month term catches yearly mail such as tax slips and renewals.
- [ ] Book utilities and internet at the new address and set end dates at the old one.
- [ ] Arrange tenant or home insurance that starts on possession day.
- [ ] Book elevators, loading zones or parking permits at both ends.

Moving week

- [ ] Carry identification, birth certificates, leases, medical records and valuables yourself.
- [ ] Photograph both homes and record final meter readings.
- [ ] Count the inventory with the movers and note damage before signing.
- [ ] Give your old landlord a forwarding address for the deposit. (if you rent)

First week

- [ ] Complete a written move-in inspection and photograph every room. (if you rent)
- [ ] Apply for the new provincial health card for everyone in the household.
- [ ] Change your address with the Canada Revenue Agency so benefit payments continue.
- [ ] Test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms and find the water shut-off.
- [ ] Nova Scotia health coverage: Usually the first day of the third month after you become a resident.
- [ ] Nova Scotia vehicle: Official pages give different deadlines, as short as 30 days. Confirm with the Registry of Motor Vehicles in your first week. (with a vehicle)
- [ ] Nova Scotia insurance: Arrange Nova Scotia coverage with an insurer before you register. (with a vehicle)

First 30 days

- [ ] Change your address with Service Canada. CPP changes need a call or a visit, while OAS can be changed online.
- [ ] Update your voter registration with Elections Canada.
- [ ] Tell banks, insurers, your employer and payroll, investment firms and subscriptions about the move.
- [ ] Join the family doctor registry.
- [ ] License your pet with the municipality. (with pets)
- [ ] Tell your old province that you moved, and ask how to end vehicle registration and recover any insurance refund. (with a vehicle)
- [ ] Drug coverage: Apply to Family Pharmacare if you need it. Seniors have a separate program.
- [ ] Inspection: A used vehicle brought into the province must be inspected within 10 days after registration. (with a vehicle)
- [ ] Halifax: A dog needs a municipal licence within 20 days of arriving.
- [ ] Halifax: The overnight winter parking ban season runs December 15 to March 31. It is enforced from 1 a.m. to 6 a.m. when declared.

First 90 days

- [ ] Driver's licence: You have 180 days to exchange. Some older pages say 90, so confirm. (with a vehicle)
- [ ] Winter tires: No province-wide mandate. The province recommends them for winter driving. (with a vehicle)

First six months and tax time

- [ ] Have a lawyer or notary review your will and powers of attorney under the new province's law.
- [ ] File taxes as a resident of the province where you lived on December 31.
- [ ] Keep moving receipts and claim eligible expenses if you moved at least 40 km closer to work or full-time study.
- [ ] Cancel mail forwarding only after yearly statements have arrived at the new address.

Rules reviewed November 27, 2026 for moves between provinces. This is general information, not legal, tax or financial advice, so confirm each deadline with the responsible office.