Vancouver moving checklist

What to do before and after moving to Vancouver, British Columbia. Skip any item that does not apply to your household.

Name _____ **Moving date** _____

Key deadlines

Health card	Apply as soon as you arrive. The wait is the rest of your arrival month plus two more months.
Driver's licence	Switch your licence within 90 days.
Vehicle	Register, license and insure within 30 days. ICBC provides basic insurance.

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.
- [ ] British Columbia health coverage: The rest of your arrival month plus two months.
- [ ] British Columbia vehicle: Register, license and insure within 30 days. (with a vehicle)
- [ ] British Columbia insurance: Basic insurance comes from ICBC. Bring your driving and claims history. (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: Register for income-based Fair PharmaCare when you enrol in MSP.
- [ ] Inspection: Usually a passed inspection at a BC facility. Some private vehicles from Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba are exempt. (with a vehicle)
- [ ] Vancouver: Dogs over three months need a Vancouver dog licence, $68 a year per dog.
- [ ] Vancouver: A residential parking permit needs your ICBC insurance address in the zone and two pieces of address proof. It does not move with you.
- [ ] Vancouver: Owners file the Empty Homes Tax declaration. The declaration for 2026 is due February 2, 2027, and the rate on empty homes is 3% of assessed value.

First 90 days

- [ ] Driver's licence: Switch within 90 days. (with a vehicle)

- [ ] Winter tires: Required on signed highways from October 1 to April 30, or March 31 on some routes. Tires need 3.5 mm tread. (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.