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WHAT TO DO

IF YOU'VE

BEEEN

EVICTED

WRITTEN BY
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The eviction process

If you are being evicted, you're not alone. In 2015 alone, roughly 2.7 million renters experienced evictions in the U.S.

Receiving an eviction notice can be scary and overwhelming. But if you make a plan and follow through, with time and effort, you will get through it. Follow our suggestions and links for what to do if you get evicted.

If you're in the Des Moines area, community resources are available to help you if you face a housing emergency. Check out our list of resources for rent assistance and emergency housing.

The eviction process

Most of the time an eviction is due to a violation of the lease or not paying rent. Whatever the reason, according to the law, landlords need to take specific steps to evict tenants.

Legally, you cannot be evicted without notice. You must receive written notification about the eviction at least *three days* before it can go to court (3 day Quit Notice)*. If the eviction is due to unpaid rent, you may pay the rent within those three days, and you can stay. If the eviction is because of another reason, and you don't fix the issue, it will continue to court.

Within 8-15 days after the 3 day notice period, there will be a court hearing. You have the right to go to the court hearing and speak to the judge (for legal assistance, call [Legal Aid](#)). The eviction has to go to court before it can proceed. If you win, the case is dismissed, and you can stay. If the landlord wins, the local sheriff will serve you an order to move right away. This typically happens within 7 days of the hearing.

If you must move, it's easier to move out on your own. If you don't, the sheriff and landlord can remove your belongings and change the lock. If you leave your stuff behind after the final date you must move, the landlord is free to sell, keep or dispose of items left behind.

If you think your eviction is unlawful, contact [Iowa Legal Aid](#) for more information on how to proceed.



What to do if you can't pay the rent

If you know you won't be able to pay your rent on time, it's best to start taking action *before* rent is due. Here is what you should do if you can't pay the rent, along with resources available in the Des Moines area.

Talk to your landlord.

If rent is past due, your landlord has the right to take legal action to have you evicted. If this happens, you will receive a 3-day notice. At the end of that three days, if you have not paid rent, the landlord can proceed with the eviction.

Tell your landlord as soon as you realize you won't be able to pay rent on time. Explain the situation. If you paid rent on time in the past, your landlord might be more willing to work with you. See if you can make payments or otherwise work out an arrangement for repayment as soon as possible.

Look at your budget.

Take a look at your expenses and figure out where you can cut back. Maybe you can slash the grocery budget or save on gas by taking the bus for a while. Maybe you can get an additional part-time job until you get back on your feet.

It might be cheaper for you to find a way to pay the rent than to move, even if you have to be super frugal and work extra for a while. On the other hand, if you regularly struggle to pay the

rent, maybe it's too much, and you need to find a more affordable place to live. (But you still don't want an eviction on your record!)

Of course, don't be afraid to [contact local programs](#) that might be able to provide you and your family with emergency assistance.

Besides scaling back on the everyday expenses, you might find ways to temporarily cut other bills, such as credit card and student loan payments:

- *Credit cards.* Some cards offer [hardship programs](#) for those facing difficult life circumstances. However, [these programs](#) can impact your interest rates, credit access and credit score - each credit card is different. It's important to understand the terms of the program!
- *Student loans.* Depending on what type of loans you have and your situation, you might be able to pause student loan payments through [student loan deferment or forbearance](#).

If you need help with rent

If you've tried all other avenues and still cannot access enough money to pay your rent, you can apply for assistance through community services. In the Des Moines area, Polk County General Assistance is the best place to start (below).

1. Gather your paperwork and documentation

Most programs require you to complete an application to see if you're eligible for help with your rent (or security deposit). You will also provide paperwork to demonstrate your need and do an in-person interview. To prepare for the applications and appointments, gather all your information together in a folder or large zip-lock bag ahead of time.

Documentation you may need:

- Photo ID
- Social Security Card
- Social Security numbers for all members of your household
- Proof of income (for the last 30 days). Pay stubs work the best.
- Proof of expenses (for the last 30 days). Bills and receipts work well.
- Proof of address (a piece of mail addressed to you can work in most circumstances)
- Bank statements are helpful

Though you may need additional information, this list is a great place to start.

2. Fill out an application for Polk County General Assistance (or Veteran's Affairs, if you're a veteran)

Many financial assistance programs in the area require that you go to Polk County General Assistance.

The first thing you should do is [fill out an application](#) with General Assistance and see if you meet the [requirements](#). If you have difficulty completing the application or need additional help, call and explain your situation.

[Polk County General Assistance](#) 515-286-2088

2309 Euclid Avenue

Des Moines, IA 50310

Hours: Monday - Friday 7:30 AM - 4:30 PM

[Fill out an online application](#) (or [print one](#) and take it in). Or you can call Toni Hoyt at 515-286-3750 for a phone interview (email Toni.Hoyt@polkcountyiowa.gov). If you go in for an interview, you must have a valid ID, social security card and documentation of your last 30 days income and expenses. The landlord might need to provide information too.

If you're a **veteran**, you must go through Veteran's Affairs. You can apply for help through:

[Primary Health Care](#) (515) 248-1850

1200 University Ave. #110A (entrance at the west side of the building)

Des Moines, Iowa 50314

3. [Call 211](#)

211 is a free dialing code to call and ask where to get help. It's set up as a service to help anyone who needs assistance to connect with the right community organizations and agencies that can help them. (All information is confidential.)

4. **Contact other agencies that can provide assistance**

As mentioned before, many other agencies require that you apply to Polk County General Assistance first. If you've already done this, you can start looking for additional assistance.

Here is a list of resources in the Des Moines area:

[Caring Hands](#) 515-967-4533

201 9th St NE

Altoona IA 50009

* Call for information on rent assistance.

[Creative Visions](#) 515-244-4003

1343 13th St

Des Moines, IA 50314

* The [Family Emergency Assistance program](#) will provide rent assistance to eligible families.

Must go through General Assistance first.

[Cross Ministries](#) (515) 279-9998

3226 University Ave.
Des Moines, Iowa 50311

* Program offers rent and deposit assistance on a first come, first serve basis (they do not take appointments). Support is limited to one time in a 12 month period.

Located at Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church
1050 – 24th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50316
Open Tues-Friday, hours vary, call (515) 279-9998 for hours.

For rent assistance:

You must have filled out the [Polk County General Assistance Application](#), have 30 days of paperwork showing income and expenses, a statement from the landlord with the amount due, photo id for the head of household and social security numbers for all household members.

For deposit assistance:

- Statement from the landlord saying how much is due
- Paperwork showing income and receipts for how you spent your income in the last 30 days
- Photo id for head of household and social security numbers for all household members

Department of Human Services [Family Investment Program \(FIP\)](#) 515-286-3555

River Place office - 2309 Euclid Ave, Des Moines IA

Carpenter office - 1900 Carpenter, Des Moines, IA

* Cash assistance provided for those who qualify and follow guidelines

This program has particular rules and participants must take part in the Promise Jobs program to receive assistance. Applications are typically processed within 30 days.

You must be resident of Polk County and [meet income and other guidelines](#) [Fill out Part A and Part C of this application](#). You may be asked to go in for an interview and provide identification, including photo id and social security card (or other relevant documentation), proof of income, and other resources you have (such as bank accounts, stocks, bonds).

[IMPACT Community Action Partnership](#) 515-274-1334

Drake Neighborhood Resource Center - 3226 University Ave, Des moines, IA

Polk County Resource Center - 2701 S.E. Convenience Blvd, Suite 2, Ankeny, IA

*Emergency energy and food assistance and housing assistance for seniors. IMPACT's resource centers can help connect you with other resources you may need.

[Proteus, Inc.](#) 515-271-5306
1221 Center Street, Suite 16
Des Moines, Iowa 50309

* Provides migrant farm workers with rental assistance and finding affordable housing.

[Salvation Army](#) 515-282-3422
1326-1330 Sixth Avenue,
Des Moines, Iowa 50314

* Mortgage, rent, and deposit assistance

Must have an appointment. Appointments for the week are made *only* by telephone starting at 8:30 am on Mondays. Contact staff directly (do *not* leave a voicemail).

Information required to apply for financial assistance, you must have the following information:

- Name
- Date of birth
- Address and phone number
- Last 4 digits of Social Security number
- Names of others in the household
- Monthly income and monthly SNAP amount
- House or rent payment
- What utilities you pay
- A piece of recent, non-personal mail (utility bill) with your current home address

[St. Mary's Family Center](#) 515-262-7800
1815 Hubbell Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50316

* Limited financial aid for rent

Financial aid applications are Monday and Thursday only (by appointment only). Limited appointments are available. Sign up at 10:00 am.

[St. Vincent de Paul](#) 833-846-6437
1426 6th Ave
Des Moines, IA 50314
Mon-Sat 9:00am-3:30pm

* Rent assistance under \$700. Based on interview, need, and funding availability.

Call 833-846-6437 for an appointment. Appointments are scheduled by telephone each Wednesday from 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Phone calls are returned in the order they are received until available appointment times are full for the week.

To be eligible for rent assistance, the applicant's name must be on the lease and they must be applying for the current month's rent. (The program does not pay for first month's rent or deposits.)

St. Benedict Mission 515-244-2986

1224 Martin Luther King
Des Moines, Iowa 50314

* Provides rent and utility assistance. Does not help with rental deposit.

(Wednesday: 2:30 pm – 4:30 pm)

West Des Moines Community Services 515-222-3660

139 6th Street
West Des Moines, IA 50265

* Provides emergency financial assistance (including rent assistance) for West Des Moines households only.

Program outreach hours: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 8 am to 3 pm, and Wednesday from 8 am to noon. Walk-ins welcome.

Modest Needs

A national program dedicated to helping those who can't find assistance elsewhere. They provide rent and other financial assistance to [those who qualify](#), and payment is always made directly to the vendor (in this case, landlord or property manager). There is no fee to apply.

To apply, [complete the online grant application](#).

Other related resources

Public housing

You can [apply for public and section 8 housing](#) through the Des Moines Municipal Housing Agency (DMMHA). There is typically a waitlist for housing.

Iowa Legal Aid 515-243-1193

1111 9th St #230
Des Moines, Iowa 50314

* Attorneys assist with legal housing issues, including eviction. You can also get help in applying for public housing, free legal aid to solve discrimination, and other support.

A note on payday loans

When you've fallen on hard times, you can feel desperate to get through the month. But before you turn to payday loans, it's better to explore all other options ([call 211!](#)). If you do consider a payday loan, make sure you understand the terms of the loan and have a solid plan to pay it off immediately.

"The average payday loan borrower is in debt for five months of the year, spending an average of \$520 in fees to repeatedly borrow \$375." - [Pew Trusts](#)

Between the fees and the interest rates on [payday loans](#), you can end up owing more money than you can afford. This leads to a vicious cycle of needing to take out one loan to pay another, and it's an endless spiral that is hard to stop.



Finding a new place to live

If you don't have the option to fix the lease violation or pay rent so you can stay, you need to start searching for a place to live as soon as you receive notice.

Since you're working with such a short timeline, you may have to rely on friends, family, or other temporary housing until you find another place to live.

Finding a new place

Being evicted can make it harder to rent in the future, but it doesn't necessarily mean that you won't find a new place to rent. While some landlords are reluctant to rent to tenants who have a previous eviction, others are more lenient.

There are several things you can do to improve your chances of being able to find a new place to rent.

Explain and negotiate

- **Explain your situation and be honest** with landlords and property managers. You want to start off on the right foot to let your new landlord know they can trust you from the beginning. Lying shows and can cost you later.

If your eviction is due to a job loss, but you now have a job and receive a regular paycheck, some landlords will overlook the eviction. Same goes for a medical issue (if you couldn't pay rent due to health reasons).

- **Don't talk trash about your old landlord or place the blame on them.** This tells the new landlord you might be a difficult tenant.
- **Negotiate the lease.** Maybe you can put down a larger deposit than required. Maybe you can pay a few months rent upfront. Show them you will go above and beyond.
- **Don't get discouraged and give up** if you're having trouble finding a landlord that will rent to you. If you have the money to pay the rent, in time, you will be able to find a landlord that will rent to you.

Put your best foot forward

When you meet with a property manager to talk about renting their property, make a good first impression.

- Show up early
- Be well groomed and well dressed
- Smile
- Be polite, please and thank you
- Drive a clean car
- Make sure the kids aren't tired and are prepared to make a good impression themselves
- Talk about positive things in your life - work, kids, community involvement.

Provide proof of your ability to pay rent

When you apply for a new place, show the landlord your most recent bank statements, pay stubs, and a credit report. If you are typically on time with payments, your credit report will reflect this. By providing proof you can pay the rent, the landlord may be willing to overlook a previous eviction.

References

- **Make things right with your former landlord, even if you're still being evicted.** Make up for missed rent payments, repair damage to the home, or otherwise make amends with your former landlord. You can then ask them if they will make a recommendation on your behalf. If you were a good tenant, but just fell on hard times, the landlord *might* give you a recommendation. Either way, making amends shows you are willing to make things right.
- **If you had good relationships with previous landlords, list them as references.** It helps to *contact them ahead of time* and let them know you are looking for a new place and ask if you can list them as a reference.

- **Use employer and coworker references if you don't have any good landlord references.** It doesn't look as good to list family members on a reference list.

Credit

Evictions are public records since they go through the court system. While landlords can notify credit bureaus of an eviction, many do not. That said, some property management companies will turn evictions over to collection agencies. If this happens, it will be reported to the credit bureaus.

- If you're not sure if you have an eviction on your credit report, you can get a free credit report: see [AnnualCreditReport.com](https://www.annualcreditreport.com).
- If the unpaid rent is on your credit report, it will be there for seven years.
- If you have paid all back-rent, make an effort to note that on your credit report. Ask the landlord if they will remove the eviction from your credit history.
- Work to improve your credit: pay all your bills before their due date and pay your debts, if possible.
- Find a co-signer to sign your new lease. Your co-signer needs to have income, good credit and references. *They must know that they are responsible if you don't pay your rent on time (and it could impact their credit if this happens).*

More options

- Ask family and friends if they know of anyone that would rent to you. Asking for help from people that know you (and can vouch for you) helps.
- Contact property management companies and explain your situation. They work for numerous landlords and could direct you to the properties/landlords that might be able to work with your situation.
- Ask family or friends if you can live with them and pay rent until you find another place. They could provide you with a reference for future housing.

*The three-day notice does not include weekends or holidays.

1 [Millions of renters face eviction - Why today's housing market is partially to blame. Redfin](#)



How to find temporary housing or shelter

If you are being evicted, you have to find a new place to live. Depending on how much time* and money you have, you might have to rely on friends or family for a while until you find a new place.

If you have time to find a new place, start looking right away. Check out our article on Finding a New Place to Live for advice on how to find a place after an eviction.

If you are in an emergency situation and face homelessness, you may have to find temporary housing until you can get back on your feet. There are several options for temporary housing and shelter in the Des Moines area. Each program has different requirements and is dependant upon your situation. Read on to find out more about which option meets your immediate needs.

The First Steps

If you're having trouble finding a place to go, need financial assistance, or are in an emergency housing situation, *start here*. These are the first steps to get help finding a place to live if you are in a tough situation, financially or otherwise.

1. Contact Primary Health Care.

[Primary Health Care](#) works with local landlords and community agencies and can help you find housing. They are the first step in the process of finding appropriate housing.

[Primary Health Care](#) (centralized intake) 515-248-1850
1200 University Ave. #110A (entrance on west side of building)
Des Moines, Iowa 50314

2. Fill out an application for General Assistance.

[Fill out an application](#) with General Assistance and see if you meet the [requirements](#). (If you have difficulty completing the form or need additional help, call and explain your situation.)

[Polk County General Assistance](#) 515-286-2088

2309 Euclid Avenue

Des Moines, IA 50310

Hours: Monday - Friday 7:30 AM - 4:30 PM

[Fill out an online application](#) (or [print one](#) and take it in). Or you can call Toni Hoyt at 515-286-3750 for a phone interview (email Toni.Hoyt@polkcountyiowa.gov). If you go in for an interview, you must have a valid ID, social security card and documentation of your last 30 days income and expenses. A landlord application may also need to be completed.

3. Call 211.

[211 is a free dialing code](#) to call and ask where to get help. It's set up as a service to help anyone who needs assistance to connect with the right community organizations and agencies that can help them. (All information is confidential.)

Des Moines Area Shelters

The following are emergency shelters in the Des Moines area.

[Central Iowa Shelters and Services](#) 515-284-5719

1420 Mulberry

Des Moines, Iowa 50309

* Free emergency shelter for adult men and women (will help move toward self-sufficiency)

[Children and Families of Iowa Domestic Violence Services](#) 515-243-6147

Confidential location

* Shelter for victims of domestic violence and their children

[Family Promise of Greater Des Moines](#) (call [Primary Health Care](#) at 515-248-1850)

Des Moines, Iowa

* Shelter for families with children

[Hope Ministries Bethel Mission](#) 515-244-5445

1310 Sixth Ave

Des Moines, Iowa

* Free emergency shelter for men only

Iowa Homeless Youth Centers (IHYC) 515-883-2379

Youth Opportunity Center

312 Locust St

Des Moines, Iowa 50309

* Serves youth ages 16-22

New Directions Shelter 515-244-9748

3001 Grand Ave.

Des Moines, Iowa

* Serves families with children

Emergency Family Shelter (call [Primary Health Care](#) at 515-248-1850)

Catholic Charities

1535 11th Street

Des Moines, Iowa

* Emergency shelter for families

Youth Emergency Services and Shelter 515-282-9377

918 SE 11th St

Des Moines, Iowa

* Emergency shelter for youth of all ages

Rental and Public Housing

Anawim Housing 515-244-8308

1171 7th Street, Suite 1

Des Moines, IA 50314

* Visit [Anawim's requirements page](#) to see if you qualify. They do not accept those with evictions in the previous 2 years and have minimum income requirements.

Oakridge Neighborhood Housing 515-244-7702

1401 Center Street

Des Moines, Iowa 50314

* Offers safe, affordable housing with additional services for individuals and families. Income restrictions. Contact Barb Cruchelow at 515.244.7702, ext. 168 to inquire about applying.

Des Moines Municipal Housing Agency 515-323-8950

2309 Euclid Avenue

Des Moines, IA 50310

* Offers public housing in Des Moines. To see if your eligible and/or to fill out an application, [click here](#).

Temporary/Transitional Housing

In many cases, to access temporary and transitional housing, you will need a referral from a community agency. But feel free to call, visit, and read about the one(s) you're interested in to get more details on the requirements and how to apply.

Annie's House 515-779-4599

1136 Martin Luther King

Des Moines, Iowa

Who: Women only (no children, no alcohol/smoking)

[Beacon of Life](#) 515-244-4713

1717 Woodland Ave

Des Moines, Iowa

Who: Women 18+ (Must be drug-free and looking for employment)

The Benedict Home Transitional Housing 515-779-6635

4425 University Avenue Ste 1

Des Moines, IA 50311

* Serves men, women, and families

[Freedom for Youth Ministries](#) 515-282-4822

2301 Hickman Road

Des Moines, Iowa

* Serves youth ages 18-21

[Hansen House of Hospitality](#) 515-282-0549

1521 Sixth Ave

Des Moines, Iowa

* For men recently released from prison

[Harbor of Hope Mission](#) 515-244-0370

803 Lyon St

Des Moines, Iowa

* Recovery home for adult men coming from prison or treatment programs

[Home Connection](#) 515-244-9748

3001 Grand Ave

Des Moines, Iowa

* Single-family housing for families with minor children

[**Hope Center for Women and Children**](#) 515-264-0144

3333 East University Ave

Des Moines, Iowa

* Short-term residential services for women and their children

[**House of Mercy**](#) 515-643-6500

1409 Clark Street

Des Moines, Iowa

* Permanent supportive housing programs

[**Lighthouse Transitional Living Program**](#) (call [Primary Health](#) at 515-248-1850)

(through [Iowa Homeless Youth Centers](#))

Des Moines, Iowa

Helps young families (16-25 years) for up to 2 years

[**Rapid Rehousing**](#) 515-883-2379

(through [Iowa Homeless Youth Centers](#))

612 Locust St.

Des Moines, Iowa

* Serves youth ages 18-22. Rent based on a sliding fee scale.

[**Ruth Harbor**](#) 515-279-4661

534 42nd St.

Des Moines, Iowa 50312

* Home for pregnant and new mothers. Fill out an [application form](#) or call for information.

[**YMCA Supportive Housing Campus**](#) 515-288-2424

2 SW 9th St.

Des Moines, Iowa

* Helps homeless individuals move into permanent housing (for both men and women).

**By law, your landlord must give you [written notice](#) (the time frame varies).*



What happens to your credit when you're evicted

If you've been evicted, you probably wonder how it will affect your credit. Will you be able to find a new place to rent? How long will it be a problem? And what can you do about it?

While it's better to avoid eviction in the first place, sometimes life happens. There are steps you can take to improve your situation. This article will cover what happens to your credit after eviction and what you can do about it.

How an eviction affects your credit

Evictions themselves are not reported directly to the credit bureaus. However, they can still affect your credit under certain conditions. There are two ways evictions can affect your credit:

1. If you fail to pay rent and the property manager sends the late payment to a collection agency. The collection agency will report this information to the credit bureaus. The information will remain on your credit for 7 years.
2. If the eviction goes to court and results in a civil judgment against you for unpaid rent. The civil judgment is put on your credit report and remains there for 7 years.

The best way to try to prevent credit problems is to work with your property manager and make arrangements to pay back all the rent owed. The sooner you do this, the less likely your credit will be negatively affected. Even if it has already been affected, it shows you were responsible and repaid what you owed.

What to do if an eviction affects your credit

If you're uncertain whether your eviction has affected your credit, [get a free report](#) and check it.

Dispute incorrect reports

If an eviction has affected your credit and the information is wrong, take steps to correct it. You can [dispute credit report errors](#) by mail, phone, or online. If you need legal assistance, contact [Legal Aid](#).

Pay what you owe

Make it right. If you pay what you owe, this information can be noted on your credit report.

If you have a collection on your credit, pay the money you owe. Work with the property manager (or landlord) and request that they note the repayment on your credit (or get it removed, if they can).

If you have a judgment against you, pay the judgment. When you do this, your credit report will show that the judgment was “satisfied.” Though the judgment will still appear on your credit for seven years, it shows that you took the responsibility to pay what was owed. Anyone looking at your credit report will see a satisfied judgment as better than unsatisfied.

Repair your credit

Get current on any bills that are overdue. Your payment history is the biggest factor in determining your credit score. By getting everything up-to-date, your credit score will go up. If you cannot pay all of an overdue bill, *contact the creditor to work out a payment plan*.

Pay accounts that are charged off and/or in collections. Either pay in full or pay an agreed upon amount to the creditor to achieve a \$0 balance.

Pay your bills on time every month. This will boost your credit score over time.

Reduce the amount of debt owed. If you can, pay down your debt. Don't move debt from one credit card to another, keep balances low and pay them off when possible.

Keep credit inquiries to a minimum. This means not applying for a bunch of new credit cards in an attempt to raise your credit score.

Wait to get new credit. *Later on*, you can add a credit card or other loan to show you are paying your debt off on time, every time. Wait until you catch up on all your bills and can afford to take this step.

Don't close cards you are no longer using. Even if you've paid the balance and no longer use a card (congratulations!), the act of canceling a card can affect your credit. Once you've raised your credit score, you can begin to cancel cards slowly. If you're afraid you'll use the cards and don't want to, freeze them in water or otherwise make them inaccessible.

Get help

If you're overwhelmed and need help, seek out a [reputable credit counselor](#) to assist you. Reputable credit counselors are trained, certified, and work with non-profit organizations. They can help you put together a debt repayment plan that will fit your needs.

"A reputable credit counseling agency should send you free information about itself and the services it provides without requiring you to provide any details about your situation." -Federal Trade Commission

Do your homework. Check for complaints with the [Attorney General's office](#). Ask about any fees, qualifications, and licensure. Ask questions and get an understanding of how the process works. Don't sign anything unless you completely understand it. If in doubt, contact [Legal Aid](#) for assistance.



How to move quickly on a budget

Moving in a hurry on a tight budget can be stressful. But it can be done. Whether you need to get rid of extra furniture or need help moving, there are budget-friendly options out there if you know where to look. Here are some suggestions for how to move quickly on a budget.

First things first

Don't panic

You got this. Accept your circumstances. Take a deep breath and dive in. Think of the move as a fresh start, a way to hit the reset button on your life.

Don't waste time or energy dwelling on everything you need to do. Take it day by day, one step at a time.

Make a plan

Your list is your friend. I don't know about you, but if I don't write it down, it doesn't get done. Plus, there's great satisfaction in checking off items on a list.

Sit down and make a list of what you need to do. List phone calls you need to make, moving arrangements that need to be worked out, and then put your list in order of most important to least important. Delegate what you can and work down your list.

Get rid of stuff you don't need or want

There is no sense in moving things you no longer need or use. Get rid of anything and everything you don't need for your next place. Be relentless and do a massive declutter. Though it's a little upfront work, you'll thank yourself on moving day.

Overwhelmed? Take it room by room. Enlist help. Set a timer and see how much you can get done 15 minutes at a time. Grab a bag or a box and start clearing out!

How to get rid of unwanted furniture

- **Donate it to a non-profit agency.** Be respectful and only donate furniture that's clean and functional. You can deliver items to thrift store locations, or check to see if they have free pick up.

If you donate to a nonprofit and get a receipt, your donation will be tax deductible.

The [Salvation Army](#) has a free pick-up option. Call 1-800-SA-TRUCK for free pick up. If you're unsure if they want your item(s), make sure you ask when you schedule the pick-up, so you don't waste their time - and yours!. (They sometimes pick up used appliances and vehicles - be sure to ask first.)

- **Local theaters.** High school productions sometimes need props. Call local community theaters to ask what their needs are.
- **Craigslist.** If you have decent items and a little time, consider selling them for some extra cash (to help pay for the move). Otherwise, use the "Free" option on [Craigslist](#) to get rid of your items quickly.
- **Freecycle.** The [Freecycle Network](#) is a non-profit site where every item listed is free (with the goal of keeping items out of the landfill).
- **Facebook Marketplace.** Similar to Craigslist, the [Facebook Marketplace](#) allows you to list items for sale (or for free) with no charge for your listing.
- **"Free" sign on the curb.** Putting your items out on the curb with a "Free" sign can be useful if you have enough traffic in your neighborhood. *Be aware of local ordinances and laws to avoid fines.*

How to get rid of unwanted appliances

Check your local waste collection company for options. Also, check with local scrap metal and used appliance dealers.

In the Des Moines and surrounding areas, check out these resources:

- Metro Waste Authority has a [list of ways to recycle your old appliances](#). Note that most of the recycling programs charge a small fee.
- MidAmerican Energy's [Appliance Recycling Program](#) is a way to get rid of air conditioners, freezers, and refrigerators and make a small amount of money through their rebate program. They're usually scheduled out a few weeks, so plan for this.

Where to find free moving boxes

- Check [UHaul's Customer Connect](#) site to see if there are any free boxes available in your area.
- Ask friends that have recently moved
- Ask stores for their extra boxes
- Check out the dumpsters of stores (liquor stores have sturdy boxes with handles)
- Check [Freecycle](#) and [Craigslist](#)
- Ask at office buildings
- Check apartment buildings' dumpster or recycling area (where there is probably someone moving in or out all the time)

Instead of packing paper, use newspapers and magazines, coffee filters, or even towels and clothing, napkins, and sheets.

Where to get free help moving

Don't be afraid to ask for help if you can't handle moving by yourself. Check with family and friends to see if they can help. Local churches and other organizations may lend a hand too. If you have a community agency you're working with, check with them. Sometimes it takes asking around to find someone to help.

Find help moving by:

- Putting a message out on social media asking for help
- Asking your local church for help
- Bartering or trading for moving help
Maybe you have a lawn mower or other large item you don't need that you can trade for help. Or maybe you have mechanical skills and can repair someone's car in exchange for help moving. Get creative! Facebook and Craigslist are good places to offer up your trade.

- Asking community organizations
Youth groups at schools, colleges, and community organizations are good places to ask. You can sweeten the deal by offering food and drinks on moving day.
- If you're a veteran, check with your [local veteran's office](#) to see if help is available in your area.

If you find yourself in an urgent situation, [call 211](#) to get reach local community services that will help you out.

At Coluzzi Real Estate, we care about our community. We go the extra mile to provide you and your family with the information you need.

If you're selling or buying a home, the process can feel intimidating and overwhelming. But it doesn't have to. We answer all your questions and simplify the process. Please don't hesitate to [contact us](#) today!

Disclaimer: This information is not legal advice. If you have questions or concerns about legal issues, consult an attorney.

Moving Checklist



MOVING CHECKLIST

- Set a date
- Figure out your budget
- Decide if you will DIY or hire movers
- Call movers/helpers (friends/family)
- Make a plan for the move (list)
- Start a "moving" folder or envelope
- Gather free boxes and supplies
- Declutter (get rid of unneeded stuff)
- Get rid of furniture you don't need
- Pack all items you don't need now
- Label boxes as you pack
- Properly dispose of toxic items
- Talk to your insurance agent
- Contact utility companies
- Fill out the change of address form
- Use up what food you can
- Pack an "essential stuff" box or bag
- Pack one room at a time
- Clean each room as you go
- Plan moving day step-by-step
- Make arrangements for pets
- Prepare kids for the move
- Pack last minute items
- Finalize everything
- Move!

NOTES

ColuzziRealEstate.com



Quick Guide to Des Moines Area Resources

For emergency or urgent housing assistance, contact:

Primary Health Care

515-248-1850

1200 University Ave. #110A
Des Moines, Iowa 50314

Entrance on west side of building

For financial assistance (including rent) first contact:

Polk County General Assistance

515-286-2088

2309 Euclid Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50310

Hours: Monday - Friday 7:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Fill out an online application (or print one): <https://apps.polkcountyiowa.gov/crm/GAWebApply/>

If you need help finding community services,
need help or assistance:

Call 211