

Moving day can feel like a whirlwind of activity, with boxes piling up and logistics that require careful coordination. Having been a relocation coordinator for over a decade, I've learned that thinking ahead about what tools to keep at your side — instead of packing them on the moving truck — can save you time, frustration, and sometimes even money.

In this post, I'll walk you through the **basic tools moving day** essentials, important tips on **decluttering**, understanding the *non-allowables and safety-based exclusions* from carriers, and navigating the tricky puzzle of *truck parking and building access logistics*. I'll reference trusted movers like **Southside Moving (Southside Portsmouth Va Movers)** and key Federal guidelines from the **Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA)** and their Protect Your Move resource to provide you with practical, trustworthy advice from the start to finish of your move.

Why Keep Certain Tools With You Instead of Packing Them?

It might sound counterintuitive to carry tools with you rather than pack them in the truck, especially when you're trying to reduce what you haul. But there are some key reasons I always recommend this:

- **Quick Access for Unpacking:** First-night setups often require a screwdriver or hammer to assemble beds or secure furniture.
- **Safety and Compliance:** Some tools or materials are restricted from moving trucks for safety reasons.
- **Truck Parking & Logistics:** Sometimes tools are needed on-site for disassembling bulky items before they get loaded, or measuring doorways and elevators.

Decluttering First: Cut Costs and Unpacking Time

Before you even start thinking about tools, **decluttering** is a non-negotiable first step. The less you move, the lower your cost and the shorter your unpacking will be. Southside Moving, known for their smooth moves in Portsmouth, VA, can only pack and transport what you're set to keep — not what you occasionally hope to get rid of.

Here's my checklist for decluttering effectively:

1. **Identify items to donate or sell;** these won't add to your moving weight or volume.
2. **Dispose of hazardous materials;** many moves won't allow flammables or chemicals on trucks — more on that soon.
3. **Set aside items you'll need before and immediately after the move, including your *tool kit essentials box*.**

This last category is where your **basic tools moving day** live. Your toolbox should be small but mighty — designed to make your first night and first unpacking steps hassle-free.

What Tools Should You Keep With You?

Imagine arriving at your new home late, tired, maybe waiting for the movers to unlock the building or park the truck. The last thing you want is to scramble for a screwdriver or measuring tape. Below are must-have items from my experienced list for a handy **tool kit essentials box** you should carry in your car or personal bag, NOT the moving truck.

Tool Kit Essentials Box — Keep These At Hand

- **Multi-head screwdriver:** A compact screwdriver with interchangeable heads saves you space and can tackle furniture assembly, TV mounts, and more.
- **Measuring tape (at least 10 feet):** Essential for confirming if bulky furniture fits through your new doors, elevators, or stairwells. Measure both the item and the exit points.
- **Utility knife or box cutter:** Perfect for opening boxes without destroying contents.
- **Small flashlight:** You don't want to be fumbling in the dark on move-in night.
- **Bungee cords or zip ties:** Handy for quick bundling or securing items temporarily.
- **Allen wrench (hex key) set:** Many flat-pack furniture pieces require these for assembly or adjustment.
- **Work gloves:** Protect your hands during handling heavy or rough items or when helping movers.

The Screwdriver for Your First Night

This tool in particular deserves a spotlight. A **screwdriver first night** isn't just a handy phrase but a reality for most homeowners. Whether it's putting together a disassembled bed frame, reattaching [Look at this website](#) shelves, or tightening cabinet handles, having your screwdriver accessible ensures you can unwind after move day without scrambling.

Understanding Non-Allowables and Safety-Based Exclusions

The **Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA)**, which oversees moving and trucking safety, issues important guidance on what can and cannot be transported on moving trucks. This is not just about convenience — it's about safety for everyone involved. The FMCSA "Your Rights and Responsibilities When You Move" booklet and their "Ready to Move" brochure both highlight these rules.

Examples of Non-Allowables and Safety Restrictions:

Category	Examples	Reason
Flammables	Gasoline, propane tanks, paint, lighter fluid	Fire hazard
Perishables	Food that can spoil or leak	Attracts pests, can cause damage
Hazardous Chemicals	Aerosols, bleach, pool chemicals	Chemical reactions, health risks
Weapons	Firearms, explosives	Security and safety concerns
Live Animals and Plants	Pets, live plants	Health and transport concerns

You ever wonder why if you have items like these, plan to transport them separately or dispose of them properly before moving day. Keep safety top of mind when preparing your basic tools moving day kit—for example, don't pack any flammable tool fluids in the truck!

Truck Parking and Building Access Logistics: Ask the Right Questions Early

Before even talking about boxes or furniture, I always ask: *"Where will the truck park?"* Understanding this affects what tools you might need on hand. Southside Moving, familiar with Portsmouth VA's urban condo buildings, knows how critical this first step is.

Here are some questions to clarify well in advance:

- Is there a loading dock or reserved parking spot for the moving truck?
- What permits or permissions are required from building management or the city?
- Are there elevator reservations or specific time windows for moves?

- How far will the truck be from the front entrance or unit?
- Will you need to measure doorways, stairwells, or elevator sizes to confirm furniture can fit?

It pays to measure large furniture plus the exit routes ahead of time with your tape measure in your **tool kit essentials box**. I also recommend labeling each room with painter's tape in big block letters well before move day, so movers know exactly where each piece belongs — another time saver that helps avoid costly mix-ups.



Using FMCSA's 'Your Rights and Responsibilities When You Move' and 'Ready to Move' Brochure

Both these documents are invaluable resources and are freely available on the FMCSA's Protect Your Move website. They provide:



- What to expect from your moving company;
- How to prepare your home and moving day;

- **Guidance on claims and disputes;**
- **Checklists for packing and essentials, like your own tools.**

Keep a printed copy with you as part of your moving documents — another item that should stay out of the truck but within easy reach.

Final Tip: Keep Your Tool Kit Close and Your Movers Closer

At the end of the day, the best tool you have on moving day is clear communication with your moving company, like Southside Moving. But it's not a one-size-fits-all solution. Share your questions about truck parking, building access, elevator bookings, and any non-allowable items well before moving day. They can guide you on what to keep with you and what to hand over to them.

By combining a thoughtfully prepared **tool kit essentials box**, knowledge of safety restrictions from FMCSA, and smart logistics planning, you can reduce stress, save hours, and avoid common pitfalls.

Summary Checklist: Tools to Keep With You on Moving Day

- Multi-head screwdriver with bits
- Measuring tape (10 feet or longer)
- Utility knife / box cutter
- Small flashlight
- Bungee cords or zip ties
- Allen wrench set
- Work gloves
- Printed FMCSA 'Your Rights and Responsibilities When You Move' booklet or digital copy
- Printed FMCSA 'Ready to Move' brochure

Remember: keep these tools and documents in your car or personal bag, separate from the moving truck. Your future self will thank you when the bed frame goes together smoothly, the couch fits perfectly, and there are no last-minute surprises.

Good luck on your move! For trusted help in Portsmouth, consider **Southside Moving (Southside Portsmouth Va Movers)** — they understand how to combine safety, efficiency, and customer care in every move.