

How to Set Up, Transfer, and Switch Utilities in a Snap

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Are you getting excited about moving into a new apartment? How's that moving checklist of yours coming along? While I'm sure there are still many items left to do before moving day, an important one to note is setting up the [utilities in your apartment](#). Your utilities should be high priority as they're essential for a comfortable home.

But maybe you aren't looking to set up, and instead, are looking to transfer your utilities from one apartment to the next – we'll cover that, too. Switching providers is an option for renters who are nearing or at the end of their current provider contract and are looking to save money.

and switching your utilities in a snap.

THE TYPES OF UTILITIES FOUND IN APARTMENTS.

While some apartments offer utilities as an amenity, others give their tenants the ability to choose their own providers. This allows residents to pick their plans based on criteria important to them, such as price and length of contract. These are the types of utilities you may need when moving apartments:

- Water/Sewer
- Electricity
- Natural Gas
- Trash
- Internet, Cable, and Phone
- Security System

Now it all depends on the home, but you may not need to hook up all the services listed above. Some apartments and appliances may solely run on **electricity**, making natural gas an irrelevant household item (at least for your new living situation). Your apartment community might even wrap water, sewer, and trash into one flat fee that you pay on top of your monthly rent so you don't have to open any additional accounts. Make sure you understand your lease, what responsibilities you have as a renter, and the utilities required (and their **costs**) for your home.

SETTING UP YOUR UTILITIES IN THREE EASY STEPS.

1. Research local service providers
2. Determine move-in date
3. Schedule an appointment if needed

Before you even start the process, ask your property manager or landlord about preferred providers. These providers have an established partnership with an apartment community, and often times give out discounted plans and rates in exchange for exclusive servicing rights to the tenants' homes.

If you can choose your own providers, start researching companies that serve your area. Online research can help you find the best rates and plans. Once you've found one that checks all of the boxes, you'll need to determine your move-in date so your utilities are activated by the time your **lease** starts.

After you've determined your dates, you'll need to speak with the utility companies' customer service department to turn on your services – you can do this over the phone or online. The rep may ask you to schedule an appointment if the technician has to come out and physically turn it on – and they'll need your apartment address in the process. For example, a brand new or recently vacant apartment may have had the gas turned off by the landlord to save money.

you can cook or heat your apartment.

HOW TO SET UP...

- **Water/Sewer**

An account for water and sewage will need to be set up if it's not already included in your rent. You can do this online at the city or county government's website. They'll let you know when your service and meter tracking begins, and when you can expect your first bill. Schedule this service at least two weeks before moving in.

- **Electricity**

Getting set up with electricity should only take a couple of minutes. You'll sign up for an energy plan online or over the phone, and your service could be ready in as little as one day if necessary. Be sure to schedule it at least one week in advance, but again, most energy supply companies can have you up and running in less than 24 hours.

- **Natural Gas**

If your appliances (stove, furnace, and water heater) run on natural gas, you're going to need a natural gas service provider to supply it to your apartment. A gas plan can be purchased online, but a technician may need to come out to your home if it's not already on. Schedule this service at least two weeks in advance in case a home appointment is needed.

- **Trash**

Like most residential neighborhoods, your apartment community likely has a preferred supplier for trash pickup. Whether the service fee is included in rent or as a separate item, your property manager should handle the service set up. If you do have to set it up with the city or county, schedule [trash service](#) one week before you move in.

- **Internet, Cable, and Phone**

Many renters bundle these items to take advantage of the extra savings. High speed internet and cable installation may take a bit more time to set up than a landline, since a technician may be called out to your home to run cable lines, set up the W-Fi router and cable box. Be sure you schedule it two weeks in advance.

- **Security System**

A security system will give you peace of mind in your home – and it can lower the cost of your [renter's insurance](#)! If your home has a security system in place, you may just need to pay for the service if you choose to use it. If you don't have one but would like to, you'll have to buy the product and service. Schedule your security system installation one week prior.

WHEN TO TRANSFER OR SWITCH YOUR SERVICE PROVIDERS.

If you're moving locally and already have accounts in your name, you may not need to create a new account and instead, you can simply transfer them. Transferring accounts can be done online or by phone and typically takes just a few minutes. Switching utility providers may be a better option for those whose contracts are - or almost - expired, which allows the renter to look at other providers for the best rate plans. If you go this route, you'll have to set up a new

right?

AND WHEN YOU SEE THE FIRST BILL IN YOUR MAILBOX...

Utility bills are often sent monthly with a due date on the invoice. It's important to pay these on or before the date to avoid getting your services stopped due to non-payment. You can also change from a paper bill to paperless if you prefer.

You see, getting your utilities set up, transferred, and switched can be an easy process with a game plan. It's quick and overall painless, just make sure that you've turned off utility services at your old place and that they're turned on at your new apartment. And don't forget to give the companies your unit number when you provide them with your home address!

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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

20 Responses



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Lauren Ross



Hello! I'm Lauren Ross, a copywriter here at Apartments.com. I love dogs, cupcakes, and lifestyle trends! In my free time, you can find me traveling or sipping my favorite cab-sauv wine. Tweet me @larossingaround!

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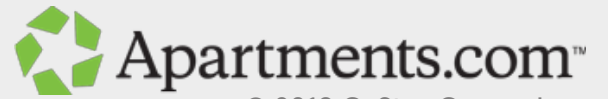
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