

Moving house is a complex orchestration involving careful scheduling, packing, and logistics. If you're like me, an ex-relocation coordinator with 12 years of experience booking elevators, confirming truck parking, and managing COIs, you know the drill: appliances are some of the trickiest items to prepare correctly for a move. Whether it's your fridge, washer, or dryer, prepping appliances properly can save you time, money, and the headache of unexpected damage or delays on moving day.

In this post, I'll share expert tips and checklists for **defrosting your fridge before moving, draining appliances when moving**, and the safest way to **disconnect your washer and dryer**. Along the way, I'll touch on important regulations from the *Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA)*, introduce you to trusted movers like *Southside Moving (Southside Portsmouth VA Movers)*, and recommend key resources like the FMCSA's '*Your Rights and Responsibilities When You Move*' booklet and '*Ready to Move*' brochure.

Why Proper Appliance Prep Matters

Before we dive in, let's talk about why appliance prep is crucial. Movers face numerous challenges:

- **Weight and Size:** Appliances are large, heavy, and often bulky — they require careful maneuvering, especially if stairs or narrow doorways are involved.
- **Safety Concerns:** Improperly drained or connected appliances can leak fluids, damage floors, and pose serious hazards during transit.
- **Cost Implications:** Extra weight and time spent on the move translates into higher fees. Decluttering and correctly prepping appliances can cut costs.

The best movers like *Southside Moving* always ask upfront: "*Where will the truck park?*" Parking proximity to the loading dock or front door dramatically impacts how appliances are moved and prepped.

Step 1: Planning Your Appliance Move

1.1 Declutter to Cut Costs and Unpack Time

Look inside your appliances before the move. Many renters and homeowners forget that leaving food in the fridge or personal items in the washer only add weight and increase unpacking load. Take this chance to:

- Clean out the fridge/freezer completely; dispose of expired food.
- Empty washer and dryer of clothes, detergents, and lint.
- Remove shelves or racks you want to pack separately.

Streamlining what you move reduces both transport weight and unpacking hassle.

1.2 Know Non-Allowables and Safety-Based Exclusions

The *FMCSA* governs interstate moving companies and enforces rules regarding what can and cannot be transported. Appliances containing flammable substances (gas ovens, propane tanks), or those leaking fluids, are often excluded for safety reasons. Review the *FMCSA's 'Your Rights and Responsibilities When You Move'* booklet for detailed guidance.

Keep a taped, inside-the-kitchen-cabinet list of common no-nos to remind yourself and movers what stays behind.

1.3 Measure Large Furniture and Exits

Take measurements of your appliances and compare them with the width of doorways, hallways, staircases, and elevators. Use painter's tape to label wall edges or tight corners. This avoids surprises and potential damage—plus, movers appreciate clear labeling (rooms in big block letters, never “Kitchen Boxes,” please!).



Step 2: Defrost Fridge Before Moving

Refrigerators are one of the most common appliances challenges on moving day. Here are the detailed steps to **defrost your fridge before moving**:

1. **Begin Defrosting Early:** Ideally, start at least 24-48 hours before the move to prevent water leaks.
2. **Unplug It:** Disconnect the fridge from power; leave the door open to speed defrosting.
3. **Remove Food and Shelves:** Take out all perishables; wash and dry removable shelves and drawers.
4. **Catch the Water:** Place towels or a shallow pan under the drain plug to collect melted ice.

5. **Dry Thoroughly:** Once defrosted, wipe down interiors to eliminate moisture which can cause mold or mildew.

6. **Secure Doors:** Use painter's tape or bungee cords to keep doors closed safely during transit.

Remember: confirm with your moving company like *Southside Moving* about their protocols for refrigerator moves. Some [resident.com](https://www.resident.com) require specific drain plug removals or packaging standards.

Step 3: Drain Appliances Moving

For appliances like dishwashers, washing machines, or fridges with water lines, draining is critical to avoid leaks and water damage.

3.1 Dishwasher

- Turn off water supply and unplug power.
- Disconnect the drain hose and drain any water left inside into a bucket.
- Check and clear filters to prevent mold post-move.

3.2 Washing Machine

- Turn off the water valves feeding your washer.
- Disconnect both supply hoses and drain out remaining water into a bucket or sink.
- Flush the hoses separately if necessary to clear residual water.
- Secure or tape the power cord to prevent damage.

3.3 Fridge Water Lines

- If you have ice makers or water dispensers, disconnect water supply lines 24+ hours before the move.
- Drain water from the lines and check for leaks.
- Consult the *FMCSA 'Ready to Move' brochure* for safe packaging suggestions.

Step 4: Disconnect Washer Dryer Moving

Moving washers and dryers requires patience and planning. Here is how to **disconnect washer dryer moving** safely:

1. **Unplug Both Units:** Safety first; cut power before disconnecting hoses or vents.
2. **Turn Off Water Supply:** Close valves for washer hoses and drain out water.
3. **Disconnect Hoses:** Unscrew hot and cold water supplies; drain residual water carefully.
4. **Disconnect Dryer Vent:** Remove the vent hose or duct from the dryer; clean out lint buildup.
5. **Secure Hoses and Cords:** Bundle cords and hoses neatly with painter's tape or bungee cords to avoid tangles.
6. **Use a Dolly or Moving Straps:** These heavy units require proper equipment. Check with your movers on locker or stair use.

Step 5: Coordinate Truck Parking and Building Access Logistics

Before move day, confirm where the moving truck will park. Will it be close to your building entrance or several blocks away? This affects how movers handle large appliances and if elevator access is needed.

Many condo or apartment moves require elevator booking in advance. Confirm timing carefully with building management and your movers.

Label each room clearly with large painter's tape signs, so movers can sort where appliances and belongings go immediately without confusion.

Important Reminders & Moving Resources

Resource Description Link FMCSA 'Your Rights and Responsibilities When You Move' Booklet Essential guide detailing interstate movers' obligations and consumer protections. Download PDF FMCSA 'Ready to Move' Brochure Checklist and tips for planning every phase of your move, including appliance prep. Download PDF Southside Moving (Southside Portsmouth VA Movers) Trusted local moving company specializing in residential moves with appliance prep services. Visit Website Protect Your Move (FMCSA Resource) Government site to learn about safe moving practices, companies, and consumer rights. Visit Site

Final Advice: Read Contracts Carefully & Communicate Early

One last tip from years on the job is to always read mover contracts thoroughly. No one likes skimmed agreements that lead to finger-pointing on moving day. Call out any flammable items or special appliance needs well before the truck arrives, preferably at booking or during the quote process.

With these steps, you'll have your appliances safe, ready, and move-day proof. Remember to **defrost your fridge before moving, drain your water-based appliances** to avoid leaks, and **disconnect your washer and dryer carefully**. It's a little prep that pays off with a smoother, less stressful move.

Happy moving and may your new home be filled with joy (and working appliances)!