

CHECKLIST · HOUSTON

Moving to Houston Checklist: The First 90 Days

What newcomers should do, in order, with deadlines and where to do it. Print it and check items off.

SHORT ANSWER

If you are subject to the address-reporting requirement, report your new address to USCIS within 10 days. In the first week, put electricity, gas and water in your name and enroll your children in school. Register your car in Harris County and open an EZ TAG account within 30 days, and get your Texas license within 90 days. Houston DPS appointments come within days, but you cannot apply without a 30-day address document.

First 10 days

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Report your address to USCIS (AR-11)	As a general rule, required for most noncitizens, including green card holders; A and G visa holders and Visa Waiver visitors are exempt. USCIS online account: uscis.gov/addresschange
☐ In immigration court? File EOIR-33	Within 5 days: respondentaccess.eoir.justice.gov
☐ ICE check-in obligations?	Update ICE too: portal.ice.gov
☐ Change your address with USPS	Separate from USCIS; one does not update the other.

First week

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Electricity	Compare plans: powertochoose.org · wires company CenterPoint; your address number (ESI ID) has 22 digits
☐ Natural gas	No provider choice: apply to CenterPoint about 7 business days before move-in
☐ Water	Houston Public Works: start service online or 713-371-1400. Apartments often bill water through the landlord
☐ Trash and recycling days	HTX Collects app or houstontx.gov/solidwaste . Homes with City pickup pay a \$5 monthly trash fee on the water bill since July 2026

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ DPS license appointment	txdpsscheduler.com · "Original" service · for a date after day 30
☐ School enrollment	HISD Online Enrollment · enroll@houstonisd.org
☐ SSN application (if eligible)	Start online, visit SSA within 45 days: ssa.gov

Within 30 days

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Texas car insurance	At least 30/60/25
☐ Emissions test	DPS-certified station, up to \$18.50
☐ Vehicle registration	Harris County Tax Office, Form 130-U, \$90 new resident tax. Passport + I-94 or green card. Closed Wednesdays
☐ EZ TAG account	hctra.org · pay tolls only on this site
☐ Flood insurance	Home and renters policies usually do not cover floods. NFIP coverage starts 30 days after purchase
☐ Emergency alerts	Sign up for AlertHouston and ReadyHarris alerts
☐ Library card	Houston Public Library, free for permanent Texas residents. Digital card: houstonlibrary.org/mylink
☐ Keep a copy of your lease	Proof of address for DPS and school

Within 90 days

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Texas driver's license	Tax Office receipt, ITAD certificate, knowledge and road tests, \$33
☐ Bought a home? Homestead exemption	Update your license address, then file Form 11.13 with HCAD between January 1 and April 30 (early applications are not accepted)
☐ Turkish citizens: consulate services	Houston Consulate General, appointments at konsolosluk.gov.tr

IF YOU ARE NOT A U.S. CITIZEN

- Never check "U.S. citizen" on any form and never register to vote.
- Talk to an immigration attorney before applying for SNAP, Medicaid, Harris Health financial assistance or any public benefit: a new public charge rule took effect on September 18, 2026.
- Check your I-94 at i94.cbp.dhs.gov. Your license term and work authorization depend on it.
- With a green card application pending, do not travel abroad without advance parole.



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