

CHECKLIST · NEW YORK

Moving to New York City 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 (Con Edison) and gas (Con Edison or National Grid, depending on your borough) in your name, enroll your children in school, and apply for IDNYC if you want one. Within 30 days, get New York insurance, register your car and open an E-ZPass account; a New York driver's license is also due within 30 days of becoming a resident. If your building has 1 to 9 units, you need an official NYC Bin before putting trash on the curb.

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	Con Edison serves all five boroughs. General line: 1-800-752-6633 · move line: 1-877-779-6943
☐ Natural gas	Con Edison in Manhattan and the Bronx; National Grid in Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island. Your gas company can change if you move boroughs.
☐ Water	In most rentals, water is billed to the landlord and included in rent; for questions call NYC DEP at (718) 595-7000.

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Trash: check the NYC Bin rule	Buildings with 1-9 units may only set out trash in an official NYC Bin (about \$50, sold at Home Depot or delivered via DoorDash/Instacart/Uber Eats). Fines have been issued since September 8, 2026.
☐ DMV license appointment	Use the 'Make A Reservation' button on your DMV office's page · test slots fill up, so book early
☐ Children's school enrollment	Your zoned school or the nearest Family Welcome Center · 718-935-3500
☐ IDNYC application	Free for any NYC resident 10 or older; you need 3 points of identity documents and 1 point of a residency document, and no photocopies.
☐ SSN application (if eligible)	Manhattan, Brooklyn, Bronx and Queens residents apply only at a Social Security Card Center (see the official offices guide)

Within 30 days

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ New York car insurance	25/50/10 liability plus \$50,000 no-fault and uninsured-motorist coverage; ask for the FS-20 card
☐ Vehicle registration	Title and registration at DMV; the MCTD surcharge applies in NYC. Details: dmv.ny.gov
☐ Vehicle inspection	Combined safety-and-emissions inspection, capped at \$37 in the NYC area
☐ E-ZPass account	e-zpassny.com · budget for the congestion toll if you drive into Manhattan
☐ Library card	NYPL (Manhattan/Bronx/Staten Island): free for anyone who lives, works, or studies in New York State. Brooklyn and Queens have their own library systems.
☐ New York driver's license	Due within 30 days of becoming a resident (living in the state 90 days counts as evidence of residency). Knowledge test, 5-hour course and road test
☐ If renting, keep your lease and fee disclosure	Under the FARE Act (June 11, 2025), the landlord now pays a broker who works for the landlord; get the written fee breakdown before you sign.

Within 90 days

TASK	WHERE / HOW
☐ Turkish citizens: consulate services	Turkish Consulate General in New York, appointments at konsolosluk.gov.tr
☐ Bought a home? Property tax programs	NYC property is split into four tax classes; ask NYC's Department of Finance about STAR, SCRIE and DRIE relief programs.

IF YOU ARE NOT A U.S. CITIZEN

- Never check "U.S. citizen" on any form and never register to vote. New York's law letting noncitizens vote in city elections was struck down by the state's highest court in March 2025 and is not in effect.
- Talk to an immigration attorney before applying for Medicaid, the Essential Plan, or any public benefit: a new public charge rule took effect on September 18, 2026. NYC Care does not ask about immigration status.
- Check your I-94 at i94.cbp.dhs.gov. Your work authorization and green card eligibility depend on it.
- With a green card application pending, do not travel abroad without advance parole.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN NEW YORK CITY

Have a question about your immigration status?

Attorney Asim Clinch serves clients in New York City and the surrounding area, in Turkish and English. Free evaluation: clinchlaw.com/free-evaluation · +1 866-491-7669
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