

Your Complete Guide to Moving to Highland, Indiana

Welcome to Highland

Highland is one of Northwest Indiana's most established and appealing suburbs, offering an attractive blend of small-town charm and modern convenience just an hour from Chicago. Located in Lake County, this thriving community has become increasingly popular with families and professionals seeking more space, affordability, and quality of life without sacrificing access to urban amenities. The town features a walkable downtown area with locally-owned shops and restaurants, well-maintained neighborhoods with diverse housing options, and a strong sense of community that newcomers consistently praise.

What sets Highland apart from other Northwest Indiana communities is its balance of accessibility and independence. Unlike bedroom communities that solely serve as Chicago suburbs, Highland has cultivated its own identity with local businesses, community events, and amenities that reduce the need for constant trips to the city. The town maintains a genuine downtown district where residents gather, hosts seasonal festivals that bring neighbors together, and offers parks and recreation facilities that serve families throughout the year. For those relocating from Chicago, Highland provides the space and affordability they're seeking while maintaining enough character and activity to feel like a true destination rather than just a place to sleep.

Planning Your Move

Timing your move to Highland requires strategic planning, especially if you're moving with school-age children. Summer months are by far the most popular for family relocations, as parents aim to get settled before the new school year begins. If you're planning a summer move, booking 3-4 weeks in advance is essential during this peak season when demand for moving services is highest. Fall and spring offer excellent alternatives with better availability and less competition for preferred moving dates, though families with children typically prioritize summer transitions. Cross-state moves require more planning time than local relocations, so start your preparations earlier than you might for an in-town move.

The logistics of moving between Illinois and Indiana involve considerations beyond typical local moves. Experienced [Highland movers handle these cross-state logistics daily, including navigation of toll routes, coordination of timing to avoid Chicago rush hour congestion, and ensuring proper documentation for interstate relocations. The primary route from Chicago to Highland uses I-94 to I-80/94, involving tolls on the Chicago Skyway \(approximately \\$6.00\) and Indiana Toll Road \(approximately \\$4-8 depending on your exit\). Professional moving companies factor these costs into estimates upfront and plan routes strategically to save time and reduce stress during your transition. Weather considerations also play a role, as Indiana winters can occasionally impact highway conditions, making spring and fall particularly smooth times for cross-state moves.](#)

Living Here

Highland's appeal to families isn't just about housing affordability—it's about the overall quality of life that comes with the community. The town is served by well-regarded Lake County school districts, and many families moving from Chicago specifically cite excellent schools and smaller class sizes as decisive factors in their relocation. The educational environment offers more personalized attention than many urban schools can provide, and parents appreciate the safer, more manageable school experience their children enjoy. Beyond education, Highland offers a lifestyle that's less hurried than city living, with easier parking, less traffic congestion, and more opportunities for outdoor activities through the town's parks and recreation system.

Daily life in Highland strikes a practical balance for commuters and remote workers alike. Those who work in Chicago find the hour-long commute manageable, especially given the significant cost savings on housing compared to city prices. The downtown area provides local coffee shops, restaurants, and services for everyday needs, reducing reliance on trips to larger shopping areas. Major highways including I-94, I-80/94, and US-30 (Lincoln Highway) provide multiple route options whether you're heading to Chicago, connecting to other parts of Northwest Indiana, or traveling east-west across the region. Residents appreciate the town's proximity to shopping centers, medical facilities, and entertainment options while maintaining a neighborhood feel that's increasingly hard to find closer to the city.

Moving Tips for Highland

1. ****Book early for summer moves****: If you're relocating with school-age children, reserve your moving date in April or May to secure summer availability before the peak season fills up completely.
1. ****Prepare for toll costs****: Keep an I-PASS or E-ZPass transponder handy if you're making multiple trips between your old and new homes, as the Chicago Skyway and Indiana Toll Road charges add up quickly during the moving process.
1. ****Check parking access****: Confirm driveway access and street parking availability at your new Highland home. While most properties offer better parking than Chicago, coordinating moving truck positioning with your moving company ensures an efficient unloading process.
1. ****Schedule utilities in advance****: Contact providers for electric, gas, water, and internet service at least two weeks before your move date. Some services require in-person appointments, and availability may be limited during peak moving season.
1. ****Consider time zone awareness****: While both Chicago and Highland observe Central Time, being aware of rush hour patterns in both locations helps you plan driving trips between homes during the moving process.

1. ****Update your address properly****: Cross-state moves require address updates with the Indiana BMV (you have 60 days to update your driver's license), vehicle registration, voter registration, and the postal service forwarding system.

Getting Settled

Once you've arrived in Highland, start with the practical essentials: register your vehicles with the Indiana BMV, update your driver's license, and establish residency documentation if you have school-age children. Connect with your local schools as early as possible, as enrollment processes may require specific documentation and appointments. Explore downtown Highland on foot to familiarize yourself with local shops, restaurants, and services—many longtime residents recommend grabbing coffee at local cafés where you'll get friendly recommendations about everything from doctors to mechanics. Join community Facebook groups or neighborhood associations to tap into local knowledge and meet neighbors who can help you navigate your new community. The Highland Parks and Recreation Department offers programs for all ages and provides an excellent way to meet people and get involved in community life.

FAQs About Moving to Highland

Q: How much does it cost to move from Chicago to Highland?

A: Most moves from Chicago to Highland range from \$600-\$1,800 depending on home size and belongings volume. A typical 2-bedroom apartment costs \$600-\$900, while 3-4 bedroom homes range \$1,200-\$1,800. Cross-state moves cost slightly more than local moves due to toll expenses, additional travel time, and interstate logistics. Request detailed quotes from moving companies that include toll costs upfront.

Q: What's the best time of year to move to Highland?

A: Fall and spring offer the best combination of weather, availability, and pricing for Highland moves. Summer is most popular with families coordinating school schedules but requires 3-4 weeks advance booking. Late spring (May) and early fall (September-October) provide excellent weather conditions, better moving company availability, and less competition for dates compared to peak summer months.

Q: Do I need special permits to move to Highland from Illinois?

A: Highland doesn't typically require moving permits for residential properties, but confirm parking and access logistics with your moving company. Unlike Chicago with its strict parking and building regulations, most Highland homes offer straightforward driveway access. You will need to update your driver's license and vehicle registration with Indiana BMV within 60 days of establishing residency.

Q: How long does a move from Chicago to Highland take?

A: Most Chicago to Highland moves complete in 4-7 hours for average-sized homes, including loading, transport (approximately 1-1.5 hours depending on traffic), and

unloading. Larger homes may require a full day. Professional movers schedule moves to avoid Chicago rush hour congestion, typically starting early morning for optimal timing and completing before evening traffic builds.

Q: Why are so many Chicago families moving to Highland?

A: Highland offers significantly lower housing costs, excellent schools with smaller class sizes, more living space, and reduced property taxes compared to Chicago—all while staying within an hour's commute. Families appreciate the safer neighborhood environment, easier parking, and genuine downtown area. The quality-of-life improvements, especially for families with children, make the commute worthwhile for those who work in the city.

Q: What challenges should I expect moving from Chicago to Highland?

A: The primary adjustment is commuting if you work in Chicago—budget for an hour each way plus toll costs (\$10-15 daily round trip). Public transportation is limited compared to Chicago, making a reliable vehicle essential. Some residents miss Chicago's diverse restaurant scene and entertainment options, though most find Highland's community atmosphere and financial benefits outweigh these trade-offs.

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