

Prepare to be moved!

Moving house is considered to be one of the most stressful times in your life; the key solution is to be prepared!

Removal Companies

All Removal Company quotations should be in writing, the price should include packing (if required), loading and unloading, storage (if required), special handling for breakables and valuables and any other special requests you may have, ie: hanging curtains. When comparing quotes make sure you are comparing like with like. Are boxes/crates and packing materials, included? Most removal firms provide transit insurance for your possessions, check if any exclusions apply, ie: anything you pack yourself may not be covered by the removal companies insurance. This may be covered by your home contents insurance so check beforehand to make sure.

Deciding on a moving date

There are many factors that will determine your moving date; If you are in a property chain, everyone within the chain will need to agree a completion date (transfer of property ownership) to take place. Your solicitor will confer with you and throughout the chain before contracts can be exchanged, everyone within the chain agrees a completion date. If you are fortunate enough not to be linked into a property chain, the moving date will often be down to the purchaser's wishes.

As soon as a definite moving date is agreed, call removal companies and get at least three quotes. Recommendations from friends and relatives are always an advantage, or try "The British Association of Removers" (BAR) they will supply names of approved members in your area. If possible opt for off-peak times such as mid-week the advantages are that it's far more likely your chosen removal firm will be available for that day, therefore it is likely to be a less stressful move for you.

Count Down to Moving Day

6 - weeks - De-Clutter

An excellent time for clearing out all the unwanted items that have been accumulating in your home and outgrown by the whole family. Most households have a number of unwanted items that are never used or required, moving home is the ideal time to sort through all of these discarded items. Make a list of valuable items for auction or private sale, and other items for the local car boot sale, and arrange to sell. Donate items to charity shops or recycle, and all other items to be thrown away. (If this task fills you with horror then hire a professional to help you de-clutter).

5 - Weeks – Start Packing

If you are packing yourself, order boxes, labels & packing material in advance of the move, so that you can start packing early as possible. Label each box carefully, marking which room they should be moved into, tape an itinerary list of contents to it this will be most helpful when unpacking later. Name/number or colour code each box for each room. Keep a separate identically coded list for yourself, this will save a lot of hard work when unpacking, ensuring that all items are placed in the correct room for unpacking in your new home.

4 - Weeks – Organise Childcare and Animal Care

Pre arrange childcare if possible well in advance of moving day, ask a relative or family friend to help, if this is not possible think of ways the children can help on moving day. Arrange and book for all animals to be boarded and cared for if necessary. This should be arranged as much in advance as possible to insure that there is a place available for them 1 or 2 days prior to moving.

Contact professional cleaners to give your new place a thorough clean before you move in. This will save you a lot of time and bother on moving day.

3 - Weeks – Get change of address cards printed and inform

Children's schools, nursery etc., G.P./health centre, Dentist, Optician, Accountant, Private Healthcare, Health Club / Gym, Friends, family and colleagues. Employers. Magazines and charity subscriptions etc. Post Office re-direction of postal delivery.

2 - Week – Notification/Change of Address to Service Providers & Utility Companies

Contact Utilities: water, gas and electricity providers.

Telephone and Internet service providers.

TV licensing to transfer your licence to new address.

Bank, building society, loans and/or investment companies. Credit card and store card companies. Vehicle insurance company, car breakdown cover, DVLA. Renew your driving licence and vehicle registration document (this is a legal requirement), local council - council tax.

1 - Week - Arrangements

Cancel: newspaper/milk and all home delivery services etc.,

Pack valuables and important documentation in a safe accessible place.

2 Days – Essentials for moving day

Pack a separate bag containing essentials ie: toilet rolls, toothbrushes and paste, paper tissues, hand wash/soap, hand towel, hairbrush, and a change of clothes.

Cleaning Materials, mobile phone chargers, rubbish bags, kettle =, tea, coffee, juice, bottled spring water, sugar, milk, mugs/cups, glasses. Snacks, basic tool kit, medical kit, light bulbs, torches, emergency cash, bottle of champagne to celebrate.

Take animals to be boarded and looked after for a few days if possible.

1 Day – clean and tidy

Empty and defrost fridge/freezer, clean inside of oven. Make sure the only thing left to clean on moving day will be to vacuum the carpets and clean the floors.

On Moving Day!

Before vacating your previous property take all meter readings, and details of last telephone call made (time & number) ensure all windows and doors are locked. Leave an information pack containing manuals for central heating system and any white goods remaining at the property. Utility providers, information on where the stopcock is located (essential information) encase of any water leaks. Leave all keys with the Estate Agents or a safe place within the property. The Estate Agent or Solicitor should be given a key for the new owners to gain access into the property once the property completion transfer has taken place, plus security alarm code if needed.

Think about getting the locks changed on your new property – you never know who may have been given spare keys in the past. Upon arrival, take meter readings and check that the phone, security alarm, electricity, gas, water, and central heating are all in good working order. Make sure you know where the stopcock is, encase you need to turn off the water during an emergency.