

Countdown to Moving Day

Preparation and planning is the key to any move, so use our handy guide to work through the list of things to do before the big day.

Six weeks before your move

- Start de-cluttering. Don't waste money paying to have stuff you never use moved to your new property. This is the time to throw out anything that you have never used. If you pack early then your removal company will have a better idea of how many boxes you have and will give a more accurate price.
- Notify your landlord in writing if you are renting
- Decide on whether to are going to move yourself or use a removal company. If removal company get at least 3 quotes. Book early so you can get the removal company of your choice. A good removal company can be booked up months in advance.
- Start researching your local area by use of local newspapers, reading blogs or community sites.
- Check your home insurance policy to make sure you are covered from the day to move in.

Four weeks before your move

- If you are packing yourself order and have delivered your packing boxes. Helpineedboxes.co.uk has a full range of packing materials which can be delivered direct to your door.
- Book extra storage if required. Helpineedstorage.co.uk offers a full list of storage companies in the UK
- If you have any parking restrictions at either address, contact the local authorities or **neighbours** to arrange parking arrangement suspensions. A removal van can be the same size as a double decker bus and needs extra space for manoeuvring into position.
- Notify the relevant utility companies of your departure. Iammoving.com will also compare, switch and save on gas and electricity bill. They are the first price comparison service to be officially accredited by Energywatch (now Consumer Focus), the UK's gas and electricity watchdog.
- Change your address details. Notify over 4000 organisations in one go for free via Iammoving.com

Two weeks before your move

- Have your car(s) serviced, particularly if you are moving long distance.
- Arrange for someone to look after children and pets if possible.
- If you are moving long distance and need a hotel for the night book early especially in the summer months.
- Deregister from your doctor. You don't need to tell your GP you are moving but it will help in terms of administration and transferring your records.
- Notify your newspaper and milkman that you will be moving and arrange a date for the service to stop.
- Start running down freezer foods.

One week before your move

- Confirm arrival time and final arrangements with your removal company including directions or postcode of your new property and any access issues
- Arrange for the professional disconnection of gas cookers, washing machines or any other appliances you are taking with you.
- Start dismantling any flat pack furniture
- Contact locksmiths and arrange them to fit new locks to your property

3 days before your move

- Do last minute laundry
- Any spare keys should be clearly labeled and left where they will be seen on moving day
- Make up a box of refreshments and essential items for your first few days – such as toilet roll, light bulbs, tea making equipment, scissors, toiletries, pen and paper, torch, first aid kit, a few pieces of basic cutlery, crockery, corkscrew and of course a bottle of champagne!

2 days before your move

- Defrost and dry out your fridge / freezer.
- Pack valuables and documents and put them in a safe place. Do not pack these in a box but place in car with you for easy access.
- Make a list of contact details i.e. Solicitors, Estate Agent, Mortgage Broker
- Confirm with your estate agents or landlord when you will be getting the keys to your new property

1 Day before your move

- All packing should be done apart from essentials items in the kitchen and bathroom. Don't forget to leave out the kettle and tea making items including bedding to sleep on for the 1st night.
- Charge your mobile phone, as you will need it tomorrow
- Do a final check of cupboards, the loft, sheds so that nothing is left behind

Moving Day

- Welcome your removal team and show them all items that are going and anything that is staying.
- Drop the children off or organise a corner of the lounge with some of their toys and a few treats. Older children may want specific tasks such as packing up their own personal box.
- Do a final clean of the house
- Make a note of all meters readings
- Do a final walk round of property including garage and garden.
- Lock all windows and doors and leave any information which may be useful to the new occupier i.e. where is the stopcock electric/ gas meter, fuse box

At your new home

- Make sure all services - electric, water and gas – are working.
- Put the kettle on for your removal team when they arrive. Moving is thirsty business! Aim to be there when your removal team arrives so you can show them where you would like items and boxes to go.
- Make sure your locksmith arrives to change the locks
- When your removal team have finished. Check the inside of the van thoroughly; it is your responsibility to make sure all of your belongings are removed.
- Don't try and unpack everything today.
- Order in a takeaway, enjoy a glass of champagne and relax