

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. 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 property owner in writing if you are renting
- Decide on whether to be going to move yourself or use a removal company. If removal company get at least three 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 have covered from the day you move in.

Four weeks before your move

- If you are packing yourself, order and have boxes delivered direct to your door. Book extra storage if required for your move. Google for full list of storage companies in the UK or your area.
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- 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 maneuvering into position.
- Notify the relevant utility companies of your departure. Change address details.

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 do not 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 labeled
- 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, and Mortgage Broker
- Confirm with your estate agents or property owner when you will be getting the keys to your new property

1 Day before your move

- Packing your items should be completed. Apart from essentials. items in the kitchen and bathroom. Do not 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 the stopcock is 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 wine and relax

Advice on Buying Moving Boxes

You would think it was easy, to get some boxes to move home with. If you have already started to look around the internet, you will have noticed the wide range of choices, sizes and quality. No standard box is sold on the internet; however standard size boxes have been used for decades by removal companies in the UK.

Boxes for moving home have been designed to fit through doorways and up and down stairs while you are able to hold your arms around the side of them.

Standard sizes of boxes used by removal companies

The four main sizes used are

Pack one approx. 18" x 18" 10" 450mm x 450mm x 250mm or approx 16" x 16" 12" 410mm x 410mm x 310mm

Small Box for heavy items

Pack two approx. 18" x 18" 20" 450mm x 450mm x 500mm or approx 16" x 16" 24" 410mm x 410mm x 620mm

Medium T Chest size for all sorts of items

Pack 3 approx. 18" x 18" 30" 450mm x 450mm x 750mm

Large box only for light items, cushions etc.

Pack 6 approx. 18" x 13" 13" 450mm x 35mm x 35mm

Book Box, however not modular

All moving boxes and packing boxes should be double walled.

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