

The Ultimate Moving Checklist: How to Organise and Move Without Screwing Up

Moving house is a big deal. It's a lot of work, and it's easy to screw up. But don't worry, we're here to help. Our Ultimate Moving Checklist will help you stay organised and avoid making big mistakes.

If you have found a home you love, your offer was accepted, and you now have a date, it is time to start ticking off your moving checklist. Please take what you need when you need it...

Two Months Before....

- Find and book a Conveyancing Solicitor for your needs
- Confirm necessary mortgage arrangements
- Confirm Moving Date
- Check out your new neighbourhood amenities
- Make applications to local schools
- Buy new school uniforms and bus pass
- Hand in notice at your current rental property
- Organise all financial and legal documents
- Check any relevant insurance
- Decluttering Will Save You Money and Hassle
- Declutter your home of old furniture, clothes and rubbish
- Declutter your cupboards, attic, garage and garden shed of hidden rubbish
- Assess how many boxes and what packing materials you will need
- Purchase your boxes early, or start looking for free used boxes
- Create an inventory of large items and any other moving considerations. (Like parking restrictions)
- Book the moving company with any extras you may require

One Month Before....

- Consider hiring a cleaning company
- Consider whether you will be having carpets fitted
- Start packing things you don't need immediately
- Organise items in garages, attics and sheds

Changing Address, Who Should I Tell?

The most important ones are:

- Your employer
- Your bank, insurance, pension, and credit card companies
- Local Council Tax
- TV Licence
- DVLA – driver's license
- National Insurance / DSS offices
- Utility companies (Water, Gas & Electric)
- GP & Dentist
- Phone and internet providers
- Inland Revenue
- Electoral Roll
- Insurance providers (including car, pets, travel and home insurance)
- Online Store (amazon and eBay)
- Family members and friends

Organise Your Important Documents

Ensure your valuables and all your essential documents are in a safe location. Keep them close!

- Tax paperwork
- Birth certificates
- Marriage certificate
- Passport
- Driving licence
- Medication
- Credit cards
- Cash
- Jewellery
- Any valuables, heirlooms, or irreplaceable items
- Any other personal documents you can think of

Going Long Distance?

- Have your car checked over (Tyres, Air Pressure, Brakes, Oils, Light etc.)
- Create a list of items you will be transporting yourself
- Book a hotel (if required)

Two Weeks Before....

- Confirm final arrangements and contact numbers with your estate agent
- Consider who is disassembling any furniture
- Consider who will disconnect your oven, washing machine and dishwasher
- Plan for a dependable family member to take care of your kids and pets on the day of your move
- Double-check that you have done all the necessary preparations and gathered all the relevant contact information for everyone involved in the move - removal company, estate agent, new owner and old owner

One Week Before...

- Ensure you have easy access to all your essential documents
- Consider what food you will keep in your fridge, plan meals, and minimize perishable items
- Plan a moving day survival kit which should include items such as:
 - Tea, milk, coffee, sugar, kettle, mugs, cereal and bowls
 - Cleaning products, hand soap, toothbrushes and bin bags
 - Phone and laptop chargers
 - Toilet paper, kitchen roll
 - Duvet and bedding
 - Pyjamas and nighties
 - Television and cables
 - A change of clothes (work stuff if required)
 - Snacks and food
 - Torch
- Finalise all your boxing up and packing arrangements, leaving out items you require for the next week. Don't forget sheds, garages and attics
- Label the boxes with identification markings, so you know what's inside, and the removal company knows what room to put the boxes in
- Bubble wrap and protect high-value furniture and items, removing glass shelves and bulbs

- Contact the estate agent to finalise arrangements for the delivery and collection of old and new property keys
- Consider whether you require mail redirect services
- Consider defrosting and drying your freezer and fridge – especially if you are moving long-distance
- You should look around your home to see if there are any items you want to give away, leave behind, or throw away

One Day Before...

- Ensure everything is packed and ready for the removal company
- Ensure your survival kit is packed and ready and you have everything you require
- Ensure you have all your necessary documents, cash and bank cards to hand
- Ensure phones and other vital devices are charged
- Ensure furniture is dismantled and white goods are disconnected from mains
- Remind relatives and neighbours that you are moving, especially if their vehicles need to be moved or are required on the day

Moving Day ...

- Prepare for the moving company to arrive and what you need them to know when they arrive
- Ensuring you have noted boxes of specific importance, fragile and high-value boxes and items
- Take meter readings for electricity, water and gas supplies (You can also take a photo)
- Discuss the moving process with your moving team and take an additional phone number
- Do one last sweep of the house and garden before you leave
- Ensure windows, garage, and doors are secure and leave the keys in the designated location

On Arrival ...

- As your removals team unloads the boxes, guide them to ensure they are placed where you need them
- Locate the emergency "moving day survival kit"
- Locate and store the documents box in a safe place
- Take meter readings for electricity, water and gas supplies (You can also take a photo)
- Ensure electricity, heating and water supplies are functioning
- Ensure you have all the keys for the new property, including doors, window and garage keys
- Check the property's condition for damage and safety hazards, including the exterior. Take photos of any areas of concern
- Check if any objects have been left behind by the previous owner
- Consider if there are any extra tasks you previously requested from the removal company, such as reconnecting your washing machine or reassembling beds
- Say thank you to your removals team for all their hard work; it's always nice to know the customer is happy and you've done an excellent job!

On Completion ...

- Connect white goods and restock the fridge with perishable foods
- Locate critical electronic devices and chargers
- Unpack your survival kit
- Rebuild crucial furniture such as beds, sofas and tables
- Unpack your kitchen and bathroom boxes first
- Consider whether you require a takeaway and a small run to the shops for essentials
- Keep unpacking and updating your addresses on essential documents and accounts, like bank statements and driver's licenses