

Moving Home

— Guide —

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Kersey's

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3 weeks before

- Check the insurance cover provided by your removal firm - what happens if anything gets damaged during the move?
- Check with your home contents insurer to see if you covered by them during the move.
- Provide the removal company with a list of things that are not to go.
- Book your self-storage company early if you are using one.
- Pack early, don't leave this until the last minute. You can get good quality packing boxes from <https://www.helpineedboxes.co.uk/>. Even if your chosen removal company is supplying you with packing boxes, they will often not supply them until you have a confirmed date. So buy a starter pack and get packing early.
- Label boxes with details of what's inside and where they're going at the new address. Pack heavy and lighter stuff together to avoid excessively weighty boxes.
- Start using up frozen and tinned food.
- Draw up a plan of where you want furniture to go in the new house.
- Take down fitted items that are coming with you - shelves, light fixtures, mirrors, brackets, etc.
- Start sorting out what's in your cupboards and sell/give away unused items.
- Get your car serviced, especially if you're moving far away.
- Book a hotel if you think you'll need one during the move.

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- Arrange for a friend or relative to help look after your children on moving day.
- Ensure you explain to young children in advance what is happening so that they know what to expect. <https://www.helpiammoving.com> has games, puzzles and even job badges to keep the kids amused on moving day.
- If you have any parking restrictions at either address, contact the local authority to arrange for parking suspension. Remember a removal lorry can be the same size as a double-decker bus and needs extra space for manoeuvring into position.
- Book pets into kennels/catteries or arrange for friends/relatives to look after them during the move.
- Get your new address engraved on pet collars and make sure that they are properly identified. Consider joining the Petlog service from the Kennel Club.
- Notify your children's old and new schools of leaving/arrival dates.

1 - 2 weeks before

- Confirm arrival times with your removal company.
- Think about whether you need a change of address card printed to send to friends and family.
- Arrange the professional disconnection of gas cookers and any other appliances that you are taking with you.
- Cancel deliveries of paper, milk, etc. and pay off any outstanding accounts.

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- Return any library books and items borrowed from friends and neighbours.
- Put all your documents and valuables in a single safe place.

Notify the following:-

- Bank
- Credit/store cards
- Other financial companies, e.g. if you have a hire purchase agreement or loan
- Utility providers, e.g. electricity, gas, water
- Inland Revenue
- National Savings and Premium Bonds
- National Insurance/DSS Benefits
- Pension
- Insurers - motor, contents, life, travel
- DVLA (for driving licence)
- TV Licence
- Phone/Mobile/Internet
- Local Council (for old and new address)
- Charities and clubs
- Magazine subscriptions

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- Tell your employer.
- Inform your stockbroker and/or companies in which you own shares.
- Inform your existing doctor, dentist, optician (and private medical care provider) and research new ones close to where you're moving.

3 days before

- Pack a bag with a change of clothes, essential toiletries and a 'survival kit' for the other end. Take things like light bulbs, fuses, tools, toilet roll, candles, matches, cash, phone charger and a list of important telephone numbers.
- Do your last-minute laundry.
- Check where you get the keys for your new home.
- If you are taking plants with you, move all outside plants and furniture into a dry area like the garage so that they can dry out and stay dry for moving day. Don't forget that all your garden furniture and plants are placed onto the van with your house furniture, you don't want them to be wet and dripping all over your other items.

2 days before

- Empty, defrost and dry out your fridge/freezer if you're planning to put it in storage for any length of time.
- Seal packets, bottles or jars with tape to prevent any spillage.
- Make sure there will be enough space for removal vans at both addresses. Sort out lift access if you live in flats.

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1 day before

- Prepare food and drink for moving day: tea/coffee, juice, fruit, bread, cheese and things like pasties. Don't forget some plates, cups, cutlery, a sharp knife and the kettle. And how about a bottle of bubbly to celebrate?
- Prepare plants for travel.
- Fully charge your mobile phone.
- Get a good night's sleep.

Moving day

- Settle the kids in with their carer if they have one. If not, set up a room that contains their toys and a few treats. Give older children specific tasks, like packing their own personal box.
- Strip the beds and keep the linen handy so you can pull it out for the first night in the new house.
- Once the van is loaded, walk around the house with a member of the removal team to check you've got everything you want in the van. One of the most common items which are left behind are clocks.
- Take the meter readings in your old and new homes.
- Aim to arrive before your removal team so you can investigate your new property.
- Give the removal team a full tour of the house when they arrive.

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- Keep the kettle boiling and the biscuits flowing. Remember moving is a thirsty business.
- Don't try and unpack everything today, order a take-away and relax.

Top Tips

- Try and avoid moving on a Friday! Even though it is the most logical day, if you do experience delays regarding transaction of monies then you will have to wait till Monday to sort the problems out. At worst you may then find you have a removal van full of your personal belongings and nowhere to go. This results in having to pay for storage and another day of removal costs. Your removal team may also not be available on the Monday.
- Choosing your removal company can be daunting but don't be swayed purely by price, instead pick a remover that suits your circumstance and your requirements. Ask questions and don't be afraid to ask for references.
- Don't just do all your correspondence with your removal company by phone or email, get them round before hand to clarify what you have to move. This will also give you a chance to meet them and answer any questions you have. After all these are people who are moving your prize possessions. If you don't feel comfortable with them then they will not be able to make you smile throughout the day in one of the most stressful times of your life.
- Before you buy extra insurance from your removal company check with your household policy, some cover this already.
- Always write a list down of everything you need to do.
- Pack early.

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- If you are doing the packing yourself make sure that you use suitable boxes that are strong enough. You need to use "double walled" boxes as these will be able to take a heavier weight. NEVER make the boxes so heavy that they cannot be lifted safely. If they are becoming heavy while you are packing them, try filling the rest of the box with light bulky items such as linen, towels, cushions or soft toys. Books are the worst offenders when it comes down to weight, use smaller boxes for these types of items. For good quality boxes log on to <https://www.helpineedboxes.co.uk> offering next working day delivery nationwide.
- Self-Assembly Furniture. This isn't designed to be flattened, moved and reassembled, so usually isn't covered within the insurance the removal companies offer. No matter how hard your removal crew try, most of the time this type of furniture will not go back together perfectly after a move.
- Always label your boxes clearly, preferable along the tape. Clearly label each box with where the contents are to end up i.e. lounge, bedroom 1. It is also a good idea to attach a A4 piece of paper to the side of each box with a list of the contents, this way to can find items quickly. Especially important if your contents is going into storage.
- Always have the kettle to hand; moving house is a thirsty business.

Packing Advice

- Never make the boxes so heavy that they cannot be lifted safely. Check how heavy they are and fill the remaining space with light, bulky items such as cushions or soft toys.
- Choose your boxes wisely. Small boxes should be used to pack books and heavy items. General items are packed into boxes the size of a tea chest. Linen boxes are bigger, as the contents are lighter.

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- Always make sure that you use tape to fasten the bottom and the top of all your boxes. The best way is known as the "H method", where you place tape down the middle joint and across each end to form a "H". DO NOT just fold in a criss-cross way, because as soon as this box is picked up with any weight inside, the flaps just unfold and everything falls out.
- Place knives and other sharp objects inside a container, such as an old biscuit tin.
- Label your boxes carefully. Mark which room they should be moved to and tape a piece of paper with a list of contents to it. This is also helpful if you are moving boxes into storage and need to find an item.

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People to Contact When Moving Home

- Local Authority
- Water Rates
- Gas
- Electricity
- Telephone
- TV Licence
- Internet Provider
- Mobile phone
- SKY
- Clubs
- Other solicitors eg Will
- Subscriptions
- Supermarket/Store Club
- Beautician / Hairdresser
- Employer
- School
- Childcare Provider
- Pension
- Insurance
- Accountants
- Tax Office
- Tax Credits
- Child Benefit
- Credit Card
- Card Protection
- Bank / Building Society
- DVLA
- Passport Office

- Doctor
- Dentist
- Hospital
- Vet

NB: Post Office can re-direct post for up to 2 years and offer a free service to change address – from nearly 1000 listed companies – see link <https://www.royalmail.com> then click Personal Customers, then How Can We Help, then Moving House?