

Confirm the move

Start here once the date is reasonably firm.

- ☐ Write down the moving date and any deadline for leaving the old property
- ☐ Confirm when keys will be released or collected
- ☐ Check the notice, completion or handover arrangements that apply to you
- ☐ Keep contact details for the agent, landlord, solicitor or seller together
- ☐ Check whether the old and new homes can be accessed at the agreed times
- ☐ List any dates that could still change and who will confirm them
- ☐ Create one folder for quotes, bookings, inventories and important messages
- ☐ Agree who in the household is responsible for each part of the move
- ☐ Note any days when lifts, parking bays or loading areas cannot be used
- ☐ Tell your removal provider promptly if the confirmed date changes

Sort before you pack

Moving fewer things saves packing and unpacking work.

- ☐ Work through one room or cupboard at a time
- ☐ Separate items to keep, sell, donate, recycle or dispose of
- ☐ Check local rules for electrical, bulky and hazardous waste
- ☐ Use up freezer food and open cleaning products where practical
- ☐ Return borrowed items and collect anything you have lent out
- ☐ Cancel or transfer regular deliveries to the old address
- ☐ Remove items from lofts, sheds, garages and outdoor storage
- ☐ Check whether fitted items are meant to stay at the property
- ☐ Mark valuable or sentimental items that will travel with you
- ☐ Update the moving inventory after anything is removed

Plan the physical move

Match the help and vehicle space to the actual load.

- ☐ Make a room-by-room list of everything that is moving
- ☐ Count boxes, bags, suitcases and loose items rather than guessing
- ☐ Measure large furniture and the narrowest doors, stairs and corridors
- ☐ Decide what needs dismantling and who will do it
- ☐ Photograph furniture before dismantling it
- ☐ Keep fittings, screws and instructions in labelled bags
- ☐ Check collection and delivery parking or loading restrictions
- ☐ Record floors, lifts, steps, long carries and awkward turns at both addresses
- ☐ Decide how much lifting help is needed at each end
- ☐ Book the moving service once the date, load and access are clear
- ☐ Check what the booking includes and what you must prepare yourself

Four weeks before

Sort the services that can take time and begin low-use packing.

- ☐ Check whether broadband can move with you or needs a new arrangement
- ☐ Tell energy and water providers the moving date when they allow advance notice
- ☐ Check council tax arrangements for the old and new addresses
- ☐ Tell relevant insurers about the move and confirm when cover at each address starts and ends
- ☐ Consider mail redirection and allow time for it to be set up
- ☐ Book cleaners, childcare or pet care if you plan to use them
- ☐ Order sturdy boxes, tape, labels and protective materials
- ☐ Start with books, decorations, spare linen and out-of-season clothes
- ☐ Pack heavy items in smaller boxes and lighter items in larger boxes
- ☐ Label each box with its destination room and a short contents note
- ☐ Keep a running box count by room

Moving house checklist

A practical UK timeline from confirming the move to settling in

Who to notify

Only tick the organisations and services that apply to you.

- ☐ Employer, pension provider and any professional bodies
- ☐ Bank, building society, credit cards and loan providers
- ☐ Home, car, pet, life, health and gadget insurers
- ☐ HMRC and benefits or pension services that hold your address
- ☐ DVLA driving licence details if required
- ☐ Vehicle log book, vehicle-tax Direct Debit and related DVLA records if required
- ☐ Electoral register for the new address
- ☐ GP, dentist, optician and prescription services as relevant
- ☐ School, nursery, college or childcare provider
- ☐ TV Licensing, mobile phone and subscription services
- ☐ Clubs, charities and regular delivery services
- ☐ Friends and family who need the new address

Two weeks before

Turn the plan into confirmed details.

- ☐ Reconfirm the collection and delivery addresses, including postcodes
- ☐ Reconfirm the moving date and expected access times
- ☐ Add any items bought or removed since the original inventory
- ☐ Confirm floors, lifts, stairs and carrying distances
- ☐ Arrange parking permissions or loading access if needed
- ☐ Check lift bookings and building move-in or move-out rules
- ☐ Tell neighbours or building staff if access may be affected
- ☐ Confirm who will be present at each address
- ☐ Plan safe transport for pets, plants, valuables and important documents
- ☐ Check the route and allow for any known restrictions or delays
- ☐ Decide which room should be unloaded first

Final week

Finish the packing without losing what you still need.

- ☐ Pack all but the clothes and toiletries needed for the final days
- ☐ Finish non-essential kitchen packing and keep a small working set out
- ☐ Back up computers and protect screens and other delicate equipment
- ☐ Defrost and dry appliances if their instructions require it
- ☐ Follow the manufacturer and moving provider instructions for equipment containing fuel or other fluids
- ☐ Photograph cable connections before unplugging complicated equipment
- ☐ Confirm medicines and mobility aids will stay accessible
- ☐ Set aside cleaning supplies for the final clean
- ☐ Check every box is closed, labelled and safe to lift
- ☐ Make a separate list of items that must not go on the vehicle

Keep with you

Use one personal bag and one clearly marked household box.

- ☐ Keys, photo ID and property or booking documents
- ☐ Phone, chargers and a power bank if you use one
- ☐ Medication, glasses and essential health items
- ☐ Wallet, valuables and irreplaceable documents
- ☐ Water, simple food and any feeding items needed for children or pets
- ☐ Toilet roll, soap, hand towel and basic toiletries
- ☐ Kettle or drinks kit, mugs and a small set of cutlery
- ☐ Cleaning cloths, bin bags, paper towels and washing-up liquid
- ☐ Scissors, tape, basic tools, light bulbs and a torch
- ☐ Bedding, nightwear and clean clothes for the first night

Day before

Remove the small jobs that cause delays on the day.

- ☐ Charge phones and any equipment needed during the move
- ☐ Keep the essentials bag and box away from the main load
- ☐ Put keys and documents somewhere they cannot be packed by mistake
- ☐ Clear routes through doorways, halls and stairs
- ☐ Reserve or check parking and loading access
- ☐ Take down anything being removed from walls if appropriate
- ☐ Check cupboards, lofts, sheds, garages and outdoor areas again
- ☐ Separate cleaning equipment and rubbish bags
- ☐ Confirm alarms and arrival times with everyone involved
- ☐ Check every room is packed apart from the agreed essentials

Leave the old home

Do the final checks before the door is locked.

- ☐ Walk through the load and point out fragile or high-priority items
- ☐ Check rooms as they are cleared so nothing is left behind
- ☐ Keep children and pets away from carrying routes
- ☐ Photograph final gas, electricity and water meter readings where accessible
- ☐ Give final readings to the relevant providers as required
- ☐ Check appliances are off and taps are closed
- ☐ Close and secure windows and external doors
- ☐ Remove rubbish and complete the agreed clean
- ☐ Photograph the condition of the empty property if appropriate
- ☐ Return or hand over every required key
- ☐ Keep the new-address contact and access details to hand

Arrive at the new home

Check access and essentials before filling every room.

- ☐ Confirm you have the right keys and can open all necessary entrances
- ☐ Check the planned unloading route is clear and safe
- ☐ Direct boxes to their labelled rooms rather than one central pile
- ☐ Check large furniture will fit before carrying it deep into the property
- ☐ Inspect the property and record any existing condition issues if appropriate
- ☐ Photograph opening gas, electricity and water meter readings where accessible
- ☐ Locate the stopcock, fuse box or consumer unit and utility meters
- ☐ Check smoke and carbon monoxide alarms that apply to the property
- ☐ Look for urgent leaks, damage or security issues
- ☐ Assemble beds and make up sleeping spaces first
- ☐ Unpack the bathroom and basic kitchen items needed that evening
- ☐ Count high-value items and check obvious damage before the move is closed

First week

Finish the jobs that need the new address or account details.

- ☐ Submit opening meter readings and check utility accounts
- ☐ Complete council tax arrangements for the new address
- ☐ Finish address changes that could not be done before moving
- ☐ Check insurance documents show the correct property and start date
- ☐ Test locks, alarms and essential appliances
- ☐ Update delivery instructions and saved addresses in shopping accounts
- ☐ Flatten boxes as rooms are finished and arrange reuse or recycling
- ☐ Keep receipts, photographs and move paperwork until any issues are resolved
- ☐ Check redirected and newly addressed post is arriving correctly
- ☐ Add any missed organisation to your change-of-address list

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If they apply to you

Add these checks for children, pets, rentals or a property sale.

- ☐ Arrange a safe closed room or suitable care for pets during loading
- ☐ Pack pet food, medication, leads, bedding and records separately
- ☐ Keep children's comfort items, food and a change of clothes accessible
- ☐ Confirm school or nursery collection arrangements around moving day
- ☐ Complete and photograph the rental check-out inventory if required
- ☐ Complete and photograph the new rental inventory within the stated process
- ☐ Keep appliance manuals, warranties and property information for the next occupier
- ☐ Agree what happens to keys, parking permits and access fobs
- ☐ Record any items included in a sale or tenancy that must remain
- ☐ Check whether plants or outdoor items need special preparation

Move details

Moving date _____

Leave by _____

Key collection _____

Booking reference _____

Old-home contact _____

New-home contact _____

Parking or lift ref _____

Boxes in total _____

Room and box count

Room _____

Room _____

Room _____

Room _____

Room _____

Notes and contacts
