

Home mover's checklist



On the move

DOs & DON'Ts



Do check the contract if you use a removal firm. Be clear on exactly what the firm will do and what happens if anything gets damaged during the move.

Do use a company that belongs to the British Association of Removers (tel: 020 8861 3331).

Don't notify anyone of the change of address before the contracts are exchanged - if the move falls through you'll have to notify everyone again.

Don't leave things to the last minute. Taking down items such as wall lights, shelves, mirrors and pictures will be more time-consuming than you expect.

Don't pack clothes and things you don't need. Some removal firms have an OXBOXX scheme - you put all your unwanted goods in boxes, label them and the removal company delivers them to the nearest Oxfam.

Do pack a box with essentials. This should include a kettle, tea bags, coffee, milk, a screwdriver, loo rolls, and light bulbs. Keep this box with you, along with important documents, telephone numbers you may need, cash and valuables and the keys to your new home.

Moving home is one of the most stressful things you can do, but working through our checklist should take some of the worry out of organising a move

Arranging the move

Book the removal firm if you're using one
Give at least two weeks' notice

Hire removal boxes or tea chests for packing

Arrange for the professional disconnection of any gas appliances you are taking
Give seven days' notice

Arrange for the final readings of gas/electricity/water meters
Give 48 hours' notice

Arrange for your final telephone bill
See if you can transfer your existing number to your new home

Cancel standing orders or direct debits from your bank account in favour of your existing house

Cancel deliveries of newspapers, milk, and so on
Settle your accounts before you move out

Defrost the fridge/freezer
If you intend to move with a freezer filled with food, turn it up to maximum for a few days before the move

Arrange to have your mail redirected
Royal Mail will redirect your post automatically to your new home. The cost, per surname, is £15.10 for three months; £23.25 for six months; and £34.90 for a year

Check that your possessions are insured during the move

Read the meters
On the day of the move take final readings for gas, electricity and water

Who to notify

The water company

Your gas supplier

Your electricity supplier

The phone company

Banks, building societies, and credit card companies

The Council Tax departments ...
in the area where you live now
in the area you are moving to

Your home insurer

Your car insurer
Make sure you are covered at your new address

Your pension and life insurance providers, if appropriate

Rental companies if you rent your TV or video

The TV licensing authority

The DVLA
To change the address on your driving licence

Your doctor, dentist and optician

Your employer



Cut out & keep