



MOVING TIPS

Two months to go

Get estimates from removal companies (you might get a nice surprise).

Get costs from at least three van rental companies if you have decided to move yourself.

Create a floor plan of your new home. This is great for working out where to put the essentials like the washing machine etc.

Gather your household goods and begin to box up your unwanted items like decorative objects. Be very selective at this stage - think weeks ahead. Try to do this on a room by room basis and label each box with the room it's from or going to.

Buy a folder for all your moving paperwork (estimates, receipts, etc.). Keeping these together can save a lot of time and panic

Organise "change of address" letters (family, friends etc.....)

Arrange to transfer school records.

Order removal packaging equipment (this is obtainable through the internet now at very good prices: boxes, labels. Tape, bubble wrap etc.....)

Choose a removal service or if you have decided to drive yourself then select a rental company

Six weeks to go

Make arrangements for storage if necessary.

Ask your doctors secretary for referrals in your new area and obtain all medical information. Ask your dentists secretary for referrals in your new area and obtain all dental information.

Get insurance quotes for antiques, pieces of art, and other valuables if required (these should be covered with a removal firm! But do check with them and get it in writing).

Start using up freezer foods and cleaning supplies that cannot be moved.

Disclaimer

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Four weeks to go

Transfer your Bank Account (if change is required) and set up new Direct Debits as required.

Contact TV / telephone services to arrange disconnection at your old home and connection at your new home. Be sure 'disconnect is the day after you leave and connection is the day before you arrive'.

If you are moving yourself, reserve the rental van.

If you are packing yourself, keep packing items you won't need until after you arrive at the new house; maybe step up the pace a little!

Arrange for special transportation of your pets and plants if necessary. If they are staying with friends or family then this needs arranged.

Check with your insurance company to see how your possessions are covered during transit.

Make any travel plans necessary for the move.

Check to see if you need any moving permits. (if moving abroad).

Cancel all gym / club memberships if you are moving out of the area.

Three weeks to go

Dispose of items that cannot be moved such as flammable liquids.

Gather required forms from the Post Office to change car registration details

If you are moving from high housing block arrange for use of the elevator.

Make child-care arrangements for moving day.

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Two weeks to go

Check new Bank Account has been set up (if required) or transferred if applicable.

Arrange for disposal of anything that cannot be left behind or taken with you. (old sheds, damaged caravans etc.).

Service your car in preparation for the move (if it's a long distance).

Return any borrowed items (including library books) and retrieve any loaned items.

Cancel newspaper and any magazine delivery.

Notify any creditors of your move.

Transfer prescriptions and be sure you have an adequate supply of medications on hand.

Assemble a file folder of information to leave for the new owner of your home, (alarm instructions, security keys etc.).

Drain power equipment of petrol or any flammable consumables, (lawnmowers etc.)

If you are moving yourself, make sure all of the "help" previously planned is still available.

One day to go

Take animals to vet for immunisation (if necessary)

Settle bills with local businesses.

Confirm any travel reservations (if applicable).

Defrost fridge and freezer, propping doors open.

Let movers pack your belongings (unless it's a do-it-yourself move).

Disconnect and prepare major appliances for move. (Turn cookers off at wall if electric, etc.) or arrange to transfer ownership with the purchaser. This is the best option on most occasions.

Set aside anything that will travel in your car so it will not be loaded on the van. This includes jewellery, very valuable or fragile items, heirlooms etc.

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Pack a box of items that will be needed first at the new house. Clearly mark this box "load last". (Kettle, cups, sugar, tea, coffee etc.).

Make some sandwiches and a small lunch for everyone involved in the move because you won't have much time during the day to grab a bite to eat.

Obtain cash or any traveller's cheques required for the trip and pay the movers.

Confirm arrival time of your removal van.

If moving you, dismantle beds and other large furniture, tape up all fixings, label them and keep them together as an item.

Deliver pets to their arranged safe house.

Again check to make sure all of the "help" previously planned is still available

Moving day - Your previous home

If using a removal company, be sure someone is at the old house to answer questions.

Note all utility meter readings.

Check all windows and doors are secure.

Place all keys in an envelope for handing over.

Load the last box onto the van.

Double check everything on the van is secure and doors are shut tight. Any windows should be clear of hard objects (just in case you have to brake hard).

Load lunch pack onto van / car.

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Delivery Day - your new home

Again, be on hand to answer questions. It is very important that if you're in a number of "runs" that you have a mobile phone and that all parties know your contact number.

Check your belongings carefully and note on the paperwork any damaged items.

Be prepared to pay the driver before your possessions are unloaded. (Some firms work this way).

Oversee all unloading and unpacking (but don't try to organise the removal men - they are experts in their field and should need no coaching - let them help you). Always check for breakages.

Check all meter readings in your new property and ensure you know the positions of the water stopcock, gas shut off valve, fuse box for electrics, heating system controls etc.

Check the lights work in each of the rooms before it gets dark. (It is a new property and if you can't see your way around it could become dangerous).

Always make sure you have the essentials (medical etc.) with you for all of the family as you'll be amazed at the volume of items you have amassed over the years.

Enjoy your new home.

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