



Reliable's Moving House checklist

Moving house is something that most of us don't do too often, so you can be forgiven for not being an expert. That's why we've written this comprehensive list of things to do when moving house to help you make sure you tick all the boxes.

1 First things first

Buying:

- Set up a 'moving file' to keep your paperwork and important contacts together.
- Appoint a conveyancing solicitor.
- Arrange a valuation survey through your lender.
- Appoint a RICS survey through your lender.

Renting:

- Inform your landlord or letting agent of your intention to move out

2 6 weeks before you move

- List your possessions - not every last teaspoon, but the big stuff.
- From your list of items, try to determine which you'll take with you, which you might wish to sell and which you might be saying 'goodbye' to.
- Also working from your list, try to identify valuable items that will require specialised insurance - your removal company can advise here.
- Start to clear out your storage areas: cupboards; loft; shed; garage etc.
- Think about gathering packing materials and packing up some seldom used items such as books and seasonal items.
- Find a local removal firm that is BAR registered, achieves British Standard ISO9001 and has good scores on Trustatrade and Which? (like Reliable Moving & Storage!)

- Get quotes for your removal. Ultimately, your decision should be based on the quality of service on offer. Loss or damage to prized possessions can far outweigh savings made by going with an cheaper service.
- Confirm parking restrictions and access for removal vehicles.

3 1 month before you move

- Notify your utility providers: some companies require a 30 day notice period.
- ...and now is a good time to compare. Shop for better deals on utilities.
- Regular solicitor updates for news of exchange if you're selling.
- Review the survey of the new property and take any action that might be required.
- Accept a removal quote and check availability.
- Once you have a removals firm on board, discuss the departure and arrival sites with them.
- Need storage? Ask your mover! Reliable offers a storage service where we pick-up and re-deliver your items.
- Get boxes and continue to pack non-essentials. Maybe aim to complete the clearing of storage areas such as lofts and sheds.
- Notify insurance providers of your upcoming change of address. Failure to do this could invalidate your policy at the worst possible time.
- If renting, having the property professionally cleaned can increase the likelihood of getting your deposit back. You should also take pictures, so you have a record.

4 2 weeks before you move

- Confirm your date with your removal company. If dates slip it's important to inform them straight away.

- Cancel any services such as window cleaning and milk or newspaper delivery, ensuring any outstanding payments are taken care of.
- Book any additional trades or services you might need such as a plumber to deal with appliances or a service to dismantle furniture.
- Plan childcare / petcare for moving day (check out our "If You Have Kids" section at the bottom of the page for further advice).
- Run down your freezer food and dispose of old paint and flammables.
- Put aside medication and keep important documents in a safe place. Take a look at our section on "Your Essentials Kit" for tips about which essential items to keep to one side.
- Book overnight accommodation if your journey is a long one.

5 1 week before your move

- Pack and label your boxes: or ask your removal company to do this for you.
- Collate all important documents. As well as the important paperwork that needs to come with you.
- Pack an overnight bag for your first night in your new home.
- Gather and label the keys for the current house.
- Re-direct your post to your new home.
- Establish with your removals firm who is responsible for disconnecting appliances and dismantling furniture.

6 1 day before you move

- Take a tour of your home and ensure that you are entirely ready for the arrival of your removal crew.

- Get all your valuables and essentials in a safe place.
- Charge your phone!
- If you haven't done so already, pay for your removal.
- If you've bought, contact your solicitor and discuss the moving day agenda. If you've agreed to receive the keys at 2pm and arrive at your new home at 9am, you may be left out in the cold!
- Speak to your neighbours and reserve parking for the removal truck.
- Drop a set of keys to your estate agent.
- Defrost your fridge and freezer.
- Change your PayPal address and any other frequently visited sites.

7 Moving Day!

- It's finally here! Emotions may run high, so take a deep breath and trust the professionals you have appointed. After all, they do this everyday.
- Strip the beds and pack bedding and curtains from your old home.
- Identify fragile items and areas of concern to the removal crew leader.
- Record meter readings for water, electric and gas. A quick snap with the camera on your smartphone will do.
- Keep track of your Essentials Kit (see 'Your Essentials Kit')!
- Keep takeaway menus and a bottle of bubbly handy!
- Establish a safe-haven room where you can take breaks and the kids can stay safe.
- Get up and running with hot water, central heating and essential appliances.
- Make up the beds for your first night's sleep in your new home!

8 Your Essentials Kit

Items we recommend that you keep handy in an Essentials Kit include:

- Toothbrush & toiletries
- Medication
- First Aid kit
- Toolkit
- Phone charger
- Bedding - you don't want to spend your first night on a bare mattress!
- A small lamp or two for any rooms where the bulbs may have gone
- Tea & Coffee making - kettle, mugs, tea, coffee, milk etc. Your removal crew might appreciate a cuppa and a biscuit too. Just sayin'...

- A small selection of the kids' favourite toys to keep them occupied until you're all settled in. You don't want to hear "Can you get Mr. Snuggles?" when he's buried beneath 25 tightly taped boxes.

- Corkscrew - because, you know...

9 If you have kids...

It can be a good idea to keep handy:

- Whatever cuddly toy, blanket or random item they just can't sleep without.
- Something to occupy them - no one is going to judge you for let them have a whole bunch of screen time on moving day if a tablet will help to keep them occupied.
- Something new. This also works for plane trips - a new little something or other with novelty value can be even more enthralling than an old favourite toy.
- One of the first things young children will want to do is take a run around the garden so take a quick tour first, inspecting it for any safety hazards.

If a change of school is involved, you'll also need to arrange for the kids' school records to be transferred.