



Preparing to move - the first steps

When it comes to moving home, there is no such thing as enough time. The sooner you start cracking through the following, the less stressed you will be.

- 1. Get quotes from 3-4 removal companies** - [The British Association of Removers](#) is a good starting point. Negotiate hard to get the best possible price.
- 2. Start working through the [Key contacts checklist](#) to let everyone know** you are planning to move home. Most contracts require a minimum of a month's notice so the sooner the better.
- 3. If your children are moving schools**, inform the existing one in writing of the final date they will be attending. Call the new school to confirm the start date.
- 4. Your local council** maybe able to arrange the **removal of large items** you no longer want. This service sometimes has a small charge.
- 5. If your pets are not accustomed to travel or are of a nervous disposition**, you may wish to **speak to your vet** for any advice to minimise the stress. The journey teamed with unfamiliar surroundings can be distressing for some animals.
- 6. Take measurements of your favourite/largest pieces of furniture** you want to move so you can take this on viewings with you.
- 7. Start packing** the items that you do not use frequently such as things from the spare room.
- 8. Your main focus will be on the house but don't forget the garden, garage, shed, attic, basement and the other obscure places** that are easily forgotten.
- 9. If you are moving far**, you may want to **consider storage for non-essential items** which allows the removers more time to get the most important items to your new property in a timely fashion. The remainder can follow the next day.
- 10. It can be tempting to pack as much into a box as possible**, but lots of smaller boxes are easier and safer to move about than a few heavy ones. **Start collecting boxes** as soon as possible. Use the internet to purchase moving boxes at a discounted rate.
- 11. Let your neighbours know in advance** so they can expect the removal van temporarily in the area. They may even offer to park their car elsewhere to allow the van some extra room to manoeuvre. Similarly, if there are parking restrictions outside your property, you may need to make arrangements to allow the removers to set up.