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THE HOUSES

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the smart move



Moving Guide

Moving Guide

Introduction

Moving to a new place is exciting, but it can also involve hard work and stresses. Therefore it is worth taking a few moments just to plan your move and check you've taken care of the main points. So why not use this guide to help you prepare and stay organised throughout your move.

5 – 6 weeks out

Assuming you have had your finance agreed with a lender and your offer has been accepted, you can start to prepare for your move. Your lender will usually also organise the survey on the property.

1 Appoint a solicitor

If you haven't already done so, appoint a solicitor who will handle much of the exchange and completion for you.

2 Get some help to move

If you're lucky, you'll be able to get help from family and friends and keep your costs down. Be sure to let them know the exact date and ensure you have got sufficient parking space. If it's not possible to undertake your own move, you can get help from a removal company.

3 - 4 weeks out

1 Take an inventory of your current home

Make a list of everything you own and ask if everything will be moving with you or if you plan to get rid of any stuff. Consider whether you may want to sell it on eBay, donate it to charity or recycle it.

2 Start collecting boxes

You can either try and get these from supermarkets or buy sturdier plastic boxes from household stores. The earlier you start packing stuff into boxes the quicker you'll find out if you have enough.

3 Change monthly memberships

Contact your gym, health club or other organisations and ask if you can end or transfer your memberships.

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1 – 2 weeks out

1 Inform relevant parties of your change of address

Think about who needs to know of your change of address; banks, DVLA, tax office, magazine subscriptions for example.

The Royal Mail offer a mail forwarding service.

<http://www.royalmail.com/portal/rm/content!/?catId=600008&mediaId=600047#!600073>

2 Schedule disconnect dates with your utility providers

Inform your utility providers when you are due to leave and ensure you take accurate meter readings on the day you leave. You can even set up new utility connection dates for your new place if need be.

3 Ensure parking space for removal vans or cars

You may need to speak to other residents or even the council if you live in a busy city centre area.

4 Label boxes

There are many ways to do this, but consider labelling essential items that you will need for your first night. Keep a separate and secure box for important documents and valuables. After that, people take different approaches. You may want to label boxes by room, or by priority you want them opened or by type of items. Do what works best for you.

5 Take care of your pets

Book any pets into kennels or a cattery for moving day.

Moving day

1 Take meter readings

Take final readings for any utilities that you can send to your providers.

2 Meet the removal company

If you've hired a removal company try and have an inventory with you and give them a copy. You may just want to take some photos of what is to be transported. Get the drivers name and contact number and give him yours, so you can stay in contact if need be.

3 Do one last check of your home

Once everything is loaded, walk through every room and check all the cupboards and wardrobes. Make sure windows are shut, all lights are turned off and any appliances that are being left.

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4 Ensure your new home is ready to move into

Before your stuff arrives, vacuum all the floors and give the kitchen and bathrooms a quick clean. Check your utilities have been connected.

5 Check your inventory

Have a look at your inventory list and make sure what has been delivered matches up. Check for any missing or damaged items. Be sure to report any missing or damaged items to your removal company, as soon as you record it.

The first week

1 Check appliances and utilities

Ensure your utilities are connected and working properly. Also check any appliances in your new home.

2 Make sure the right people have your new address

Check to see that all mail you think should be arriving for you is. Also, think about whether all your family and friends know of your new address.

3 Check out your new area

Take a walk around your new neighbourhood and get an idea of what is around and where the nearest amenities are.