

Moving House Checklist

Week by week, from 8 weeks before your move to the month after: 53 tasks in the order removers would do them. Tick as you go.

Moving day: _____

Removal firm: _____

Phone: _____

8 weeks before

Date: _____

- ☐ Pick a target date, and if you can be flexible, keep a mid-week, mid-month option open. It usually costs less. Estimate your removal cost.
- ☐ Get at least three removal quotes, ideally from firms that will survey in person or by video. Compare quotes.
- ☐ Declutter room by room: sell, donate or book a tip run. Every box you don't move saves time and money.
- ☐ Measure big furniture against the new home's doors, stairs and landings. Decide now: hoist, dismantle or sell.
- ☐ Renting? Check your tenancy's notice period and give notice in writing. Ask about the check-out and deposit.
- ☐ Start a moving folder for quotes, contracts, inventories and key contacts.
- ☐ Children? Contact the new council or school about places.

6 weeks before

Date: _____

- ☐ Book your removal firm. For summer and month-end dates, six weeks' notice is sensible. Get the date, arrival time and what's included in writing.
- ☐ Check the firm's goods-in-transit and public liability insurance, and whether it's a BAR member.
- ☐ Order boxes, tape and bubble wrap. Work out how many you need.
- ☐ Book storage if there's a gap between moving out and moving in.
- ☐ Arrange specialists: piano movers, a Gas Safe registered engineer to disconnect a gas cooker, a hoist if needed.
- ☐ Plan for pets and young children on moving day.

4 weeks before

Date: _____

- ☐ Apply for parking suspensions or permits at both addresses, so the van can park by the door (for example, Lewisham charges £62 plus £56 per bay per day).
- ☐ Flat? Book the lift, loading bay or concierge slot at both ends.
- ☐ Set up Royal Mail redirection. You can apply up to six months ahead; a UK redirection starts at £45 for 3 months.
- ☐ Book broadband and TV installation at the new address. Lead times can be weeks.
- ☐ Change your TV Licence address (allowed up to three months before).
- ☐ Pack the loft, shed, garage and anything you won't need for a month.
- ☐ Start your who-to-notify list.

2 weeks before

Date: _____

- ☐ Reconfirm with the removal firm: date, start time, both addresses, parking, access, anything to dismantle.
- ☐ Tell your energy suppliers you're moving. Give at least 48 hours' notice. Tell your water company too.
- ☐ Tell the council tax team at your old and new councils.
- ☐ Book time off work and arrange childcare and pet care for the day.
- ☐ Run down the freezer and food cupboards.
- ☐ Pack room by room, labelling each box with its destination room on two sides and the top.
- ☐ Dispose of paint, gas bottles, chemicals and other hazardous items. Check the firm's terms for what it won't carry.

1 week before

Date: _____

- ☐ Confirm key collection and handover times with the estate agent, solicitor or landlord.
- ☐ Pack everything except daily essentials.
- ☐ Set aside documents, passports, jewellery, medicines and chargers to carry yourself, not on the lorry.
- ☐ Back up computers and photograph the wiring behind the TV.
- ☐ Plan where each large item goes in the new home and print a simple floor plan for the crew.

The day before

Date: _____

- ☐ Defrost the fridge-freezer and leave the door ajar with towels down.
- ☐ Disconnect the washing machine and fit its transit bolts if you still have them.
- ☐ Pack an "open first" box: kettle, mugs, tea, loo roll, snacks, bedding, basic tools, chargers.
- ☐ Strip the beds (bedding goes in the open-first box). Get cash and drinks ready for the crew.

Moving day

Date: _____

- ☐ Take dated meter readings (gas, electricity, water) at the old home. A photo is ideal.
- ☐ Walk the crew leader round. Point out fragile items and anything that stays.
- ☐ Do a last check: every cupboard, the loft, the shed, the garden. Lock windows and doors and hand over the keys.
- ☐ At the new home: take meter readings, find the stopcock and fuse box, and direct boxes to rooms.
- ☐ Check furniture for damage before you sign the crew's paperwork, and note anything on it.
- ☐ Make the beds first. Future you will thank you.

First week after

Date: _____

- ☐ Update your driving licence and vehicle log book (V5C) with DVLA. It's free, and not doing it can mean a fine of up to £1,000.
- ☐ Register to vote at your new address.
- ☐ Register with a GP. Registration usually takes up to 5 days, and your old surgery is told automatically. Find a dentist.
- ☐ Report the move for any benefits straight away. Late reporting can lead to overpayments and a £50 penalty.
- ☐ Update your bank, cards, employer, HMRC and insurers. Use the full who-to-notify list.
- ☐ Think about changing the locks, and test the smoke alarms.

First month after

Date: _____

- ☐ Update your pet's microchip record.
- ☐ Check the redirected post and update each sender, so you can let the redirection lapse.
- ☐ Check your first council tax bill and its band.
- ☐ Flatten and recycle boxes, or pass them on. Ask whether unused boxes can go back for a refund.
- ☐ Leave a review for your removal firm. It helps the next person choose.

Still need a removal firm?

Compare quotes from firms that cover your move at compareremovalcompanies.co.uk/quote. Free, with no obligation to book.

Sources

Deadlines, prices and penalties come from the sources below (accessed 13 October 2026). The order and timing of the practical steps is trade advice, not an official rule.

1. Which?, "How to choose the best removals company", 2026 (which.co.uk)
2. Konnect You, London removal companies, 2026 (konnectyou.com)
3. Post Office, Mail redirection (postoffice.co.uk)
4. TV Licensing, "Moving house? Let us know" (tvlicensing.co.uk)
5. Citizens Advice, "Moving home: dealing with your energy supply" (citizensadvice.org.uk)
6. GOV.UK, Start paying Council Tax (gov.uk)
7. GOV.UK, Change the address on your driving licence and vehicle log book (V5C) (gov.uk)
8. NHS, Register with a GP surgery (nhs.uk)
9. GOV.UK, Register to vote (gov.uk)
10. GOV.UK, Benefits: report a change in your circumstances (gov.uk)
11. Lewisham Council, Parking bay suspension, 2026 (lewisham.gov.uk)
12. GOV.UK, Get your dog or cat microchipped (gov.uk)
13. British Association of Removers, bar.co.uk

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