

Moving house - everything you need to know...

1. Survey and quotation.

Arranging for a surveyor to visit your property is the first step in getting your move started. A home survey is essential in uncovering potential issues at both your new and old address, establishing a schedule for your moving day, and of course – being provided with a quotation for the job. For many people, moving house is something that only comes around once or twice in a lifetime, so here's a guide to how a home survey usually works:

- The surveyor will establish the total volume of all household items that you require to be moved. It is very important that items in the loft, garage and shed are not forgotten.
- The distance and travel time between your old and new address will be calculated, and planned into a daily schedule.
- The access and parking at both addresses will be noted.
- Your preferences towards which type of move you would like will be discussed – depending on whether you want to pack your items yourself, or have your belongings professionally packed will affect your moving-day plan.
- The surveyor will be able to answer any questions you have about your move, so be sure that you understand the process and details of your removal.

2. Accepting your quotation.

Once your home survey has taken place, you will usually receive a quotation in the following few days. If you are happy with the details and the price of your move – it is important to get your dates booked in sooner rather than later. It's as easy as completing an acceptance form online, paying a deposit to provisionally secure your dates, and then preparing for the big day. However, it is not unusual for completion and moving dates to change, so if there are any alterations to your plans, be sure to inform all parties as soon as possible. There is no extra charge for moving your dates until a full payment has been made.

3. Preparation.

After paying a deposit to provisionally book a date, it is essential to get organised. Use your move as an opportunity to de-clutter and organise your belongings. The more you throw out, the less you have to unpack – so it's a good idea to throw away any old clothes, toys and items that you no longer use or like. Here are a few important tips to remember:

- Cancel any subscriptions, home delivery orders and finalise bills ahead of your move. Getting this done sooner rather than later will prevent you coming across any unnecessary bills or payments after your move.
- Inform and change any utilities such as the dentist and doctors leading up to your move as well as registering for any local schools in your new area.

- ❑ Notify the people around you about your move, this way you can keep in contact and they might even offer a helping hand.
- ❑ Defrost the fridge and freezer thoroughly before the actual move date, this will save you wasting any food and money when you move.
- ❑ If you are moving with children, be sure to keep them in the loop. Get them involved in the move by asking them to pack or organise their toys – this will keep them occupied during a stressful time.
- ❑ If you are moving with pets, much like children - it is important to keep them comfortable and familiar with what is going on. Keep pets in a quiet room while your removal is taking place, checking on them regularly.
- ❑ It is essential to stay in contact with your removal company. Be sure to check in with them as the moving day approaches, going over any details that you are not sure of. This will make your moving day go as smooth as possible.

During an owner packed move:

- ❑ Start packing early. You can never be too organised, and it usually takes longer than expected to get everything done.
- ❑ Pack one room at a time, labelling boxes as you go. This will keep you organised and avoid losing track of what you have and haven't packed.
- ❑ Keep an inventory list of all important items that need to be packed, this way you can make sure that nothing is missed or forgotten during the process.
- ❑ Pack any valuable or fragile items in small boxes, this prevents your items moving around and getting damaged while in transit.
- ❑ Prioritise your items. Don't pack any documents that may be required prior to the move, this saves you rummaging through boxes to find the items you need. It is sensible to begin packing items that you are less likely to need, and working towards the everyday essentials.
- ❑ Tape and carefully wrap kitchen knives, scissors and other tools. This prevents your boxes getting punctured and more importantly avoids any injuries during your removal.
- ❑ If you are moving with children, be sure to keep them in the loop. Get them involved in the move by asking them to pack their toys – this will keep them occupied during a stressful time.

During a full packed move:

- ❑ Many people would prefer to pack their personal belongings themselves, ahead of their moving day. Feel free to contact the office to arrange a delivery for a few boxes in order to begin the packing process.
- ❑ The crew will bring all of the necessary materials on the day, so be sure that all items are ready to be packed to ensure that the day can begin when the crew arrive.
- ❑ Be clear about which items you would like to be left aside. For example – if your move takes place over two days, it is important to keep cutlery and other essentials unpacked until the last minute. This way, you will be able to spend the last night in your property stress free.

- The crew will label boxes according to the room your items have been packed in. If you would like any of your belongings to be left in a specific room in your new property, be sure to inform the crew before they pack.

4. *The moving day.*

Moving house can be one of the most hectic days of someone's life, so it's important to make it as stress-free as possible. It's inevitable that you will come across some challenges during the process and on the day, but there's a few things you can do to make your moving date as smooth as it can be:

- Become familiar with your removal crew, they will undoubtedly be friendly and professional, so be sure to check over any details as the day goes along to ensure you feel comfortable and reassured throughout your move.
- Arrange to have food and refreshments on the day, and create a small box full of cutlery, plates and bottles of water for when you get to your new home. This will reduce the mad panic to unpack as you'll have a few essentials to hand.
- Be sure to take a final look around your old house before the removal van sets off, although the crew are professionals, this will give you peace of mind and reduce any worry about forgetting things.
- Keep important things such as your mobile phone, money and driving licence to hand all day.
- Make sure that water, electricity and gas supplies are shut off at the mains before you leave your old house – along with securing all doors and windows.
- We will do everything in our power to ensure that the moving vehicle and crew arrive at both addresses at the agreed time, however it is important to consider that they are subject to traffic delays. All drivers have mobile phones, and you will be notified of any delays as soon as they arise.