








# THE MOVING HOUSE SURVIVAL GUIDE





## Space 4U

Tailored storage solutions

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## Introduction

We all know that moving house can be stressful not to mention time-consuming. If you've moved before then the memory is no doubt still fresh in your mind, and if you're a first-time buyer you've probably heard plenty of horror stories. While we can't exactly make the whole ordeal an enjoyable experience, we can at least help to ease some of the stress.

As long-time storage experts, we've had plenty of experience with packing, removals and the entire moving process. We've put together the best of our practical tips and advice from our experts to give you a handy survival guide for the big move. You'll find sections for all the most important stages of the moving process along with some essential advice for each. We've tried to keep this guide easy and quick to read so you'll only find the best moving tips, but if you want to know more than just give us a call.

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# WHO TO INFORM

You'll need to inform various people and companies at different stages in the lead up to your move. Once you have your move date confirmed you should be able to inform most of these companies earlier rather than later but some may need to be done nearer the time, so have this list handy to keep track.

## HOME

Water

Gas

Electricity

Telephone

Post Office

TV & Internet providers

TV licensing

Friends & Relatives

Subscriptions & Milk deliveries

Clubs & Libraries

Schools/colleges

## HEALTH

Doctor

Dentist

Optician



DATE

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# WHO TO INFORM

## FINANCIAL

Banks & Building societies

Credit card companies

Council tax department

National savings & Premium bonds

Your employer

Insurance companies

Pension companies

Inland revenue

Social security

Solicitor

## MOTORING

DVLA

Breakdown recovery company

Vehicle registration company



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## REDIRECT YOUR MAIL

Take advantage of the Royal Mail's Postal Redirection service to ensure that any bills or other mail you've not changed your address on still reaches you.

It's important to do this - any bills you don't get and therefore don't pay can damage your credit record, or result in you being traced by a debt collection company. Stray letters can also increase the risk of ID fraud.

Before the move

# ORGANISE & DECLUTTER

When it comes to moving house organisation is your best friend, so as well as decluttering make a list of everything you'll need to do. This guide is a great place to start; simply turn each section into a list item and add on anything else specific to your move.

Moving house is also a great time to finally get around to that big spring clean. Decluttering is always useful whether you're moving house or not so you can start as early as you want. In fact, the earlier the better!

When it's time to tackle the clutter look to the usual offenders first. Garages, lofts and garden sheds tend to collect a lot of junk over the years and are prime targets for clutter. Depending on the size of your house or just the amount of clutter (we're not judging!) you may want to consider hiring a skip. This can make it much easier to do one big purge and save on all those trips to the dump in a single car.

We recommend coming up with some categories before you start that you'll then divide everything by. Here's what we suggest.



## KEEP

Everyday items that you use regularly or sentimental items that don't cause too much clutter. Be sure you definitely want to keep these items as moving with clutter makes the whole process more time consuming and is a one-way ticket to collecting more clutter at the other end.



## CHARITY

Once you've got everything you definitely want to keep it gets more difficult. The next easiest category is to donate anything you no longer want or need and is still in good condition to be reused. If it's not a seasonal item and you haven't used or even thought about it for 6 months, it can probably go.



## DUMP

Anything else you don't need or want that can't be reused can be dumped. Make sure you recycle everything you can such as cardboard, glass and textiles. Your local recycling centre and dump should be able to help you out.



## STORE

Seasonal items or anything that you don't necessarily use but still has a lot of sentimental value can still take up a lot of room. Make sure there's enough loft or garage space in your new home. Don't be tempted to turn that precious spare bedroom into a dumping ground; affordable storage can help!

Before the move

# STORAGE & REMOVALS

Selling and buying a new home can be incredibly stressful. Sometimes you complete the sale but you can't move immediately, or the contracts just don't coincide. You can be caught in a chain but still be unable to accept an offer for the asking price. Self storage can provide the perfect solution for a logistically complicated move as well as an affordable space to store sentimental or seasonal items long term if you're downsizing or don't have the space.

Space 4U Self Storage can help you by giving you some much needed breathing space enabling you to take your time and find the best deals before finally moving into your new home. While we hope you choose us, here's what you should look out for in any storage company.



## 24/7 ACCESS

Check there's no hidden charges for accessing out of hours



## CCTV SECURITY

Make sure they have the latest CCTV & Alarm security systems



## REMOVALS

Get an all-in-one service with a company that offers removals & packaging



## INSURANCE

Ensure they provide affordable insurance to save you getting your own



## UPFRONT COSTS

Make sure there's no hidden extras and you get the whole price upfront



## FRIENDLY TEAM

Look for a friendly team with years of experience and great advice

## REMOVALS

Unless you have very few possessions, call in the professionals to help you move house. It will relieve some of the stress of the big move. You can arrange for it all to be done for you and pay for the privilege, or you can do the packing yourself but leave the heavy stuff to the experts. On moving day, stay in your old home until the very last item is packed and on the van. It's up to you to ensure that all your belongings are taken away. Be sure to make a final inspection before the removal van leaves.





Before the move

# PACKING SUPPLIES

Before you begin packing you'll need to get some supplies together. Make sure you think carefully about how much you need as it can be a pain when you suddenly run out of boxes half way through a packing session. Here are some of the main packing supplies we recommend stocking up on.



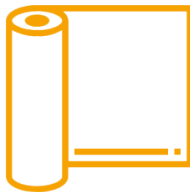
## TAPE

As well as strong tape, fragile tape can save time on marking boxes



## NEWSPAPER

You can also use packing paper for valuable items to prevent ink transfer



## BUBBLE WRAP

You can also use towels, blankets and other soft materials



## SELF-SEAL BAGS

These are perfect for keeping nuts, bolts and other small items together



## BOXES

1. Use sturdy and strong packing boxes, particularly for heavier items, or your belongings may end up falling out!
2. Don't completely fill large boxes, as they will be too heavy to move.
3. Try to calculate how many boxes you will need and get these well in advance.
4. Find boxes in a variety of sizes so you don't make them too heavy and are easier to arrange and stack safely.
5. Remember that most cardboard boxes are bought or delivered flat packed so allow time to make them up.
6. When making your box, use plenty of parcel tape so there is no risk of the bottom falling out.
7. Label each box with the contents so you know where things are stored.
8. Don't forget to utilise wardrobe boxes which are perfect for bulky, lightweight items like pillows.
9. Have about 10 boxes set aside to use for last minute items on moving day such as bedding, clothing, etc.

# PACKING ADVICE

Moving may not be the most fun you've ever had, but planning ahead will go a long way toward making the process bearable. Make sure to start early as packing always takes longer than anticipated.

Use your garage as a pre-staging area ready for the move to help keep your house clear of clutter whilst you're packing. Then begin at the top of the house and move downwards. If you have an attic, it's a good idea to sort that area first.

Books are easy but heavy, valuables need careful wrapping and will take time, and some furniture may need to be dismantled. You don't need to leave everything to the day before the move. Consider what you don't need to take with you, what will need careful packing and make a priority packing list remembering these key tips.

- 1** Always pack heavy items in smaller boxes. It will make transporting them easier and avoids any boxes failing or splitting open when lifting them.
- 2** Pack one room at a time, labelling each box with the details of its contents and the room to which it belongs. Clearly label boxes that contain breakables with the word FRAGILE!
- 3** Keep all boxes for each room together. This will save time when unpacking.
- 4** Pillows and blankets can also be used for wrapping valuables and protecting furniture from dents and scratches.
- 5** Pack and keep important documents together, such as birth/marriage certificates, and keep them in a safe place.
- 6** Put all hazardous materials, such as paint, bleach and aerosols, into a separate box or plastic crate and keep them away from the rest of your stuff. Unfortunately, these items are not permitted within any storage facility you might be using while you move.

## Before the move

# PACKING ADVICE

Any items you can pack early will save you time on moving day. If it's summer, get your winter clothes out of the way. You don't really need 5 radios or TV's around your house for your last few days before the big move. Box up your shampoo and extra toothpaste and live out of a travel cosmetic case for the last week or two. Pare down cooking utensils and food supplies to the bare essentials. Wastebaskets can also be packed as you can put things in them for the move and switch to using plastic shopping bags instead (hang them on a cabinet door or door handle to collect rubbish).

Moving is tiring and the chances are you'll just want a good night's sleep at the end of moving day and unless you travel light, you won't be able to unpack everything in the first day. It's worth deciding what you might need easy access to soon after you actually finish the moving days lifting and shifting. Here's our recommendation for some essential kit that you can use as a checklist. You only need enough for the members of your family.

## YOUR SURVIVAL KIT



### FOOD & KITCHEN

- Tea & Coffee
- Snacks
- Kettle
- Cups
- Plates
- Utensils
- Kitchen cloth



### BATH & BODY

- Overnight clothes
- Toilet paper
- Tooth brushes & paste
- Shampoo & body wash
- Bed linen
- Towels
- 



### OTHER

- Torch
- First aid kit
- Pen & paper
- Zip lock bags
- Small tool kit
- Kids toys
- Phone Charger



### TOP TIP FOR KIDS

Why not let the children pack up their own toys? It will keep them involved and occupied whilst you're packing your own belongings and may distract them from the upheaval of moving home.

Before the move

# CHECK BEFORE YOU MOVE

To make your life easier remember to ask the previous owner these following questions in advance of your moving day.



## ASK THE OWNERS

1. Where's the main stopcock (to shut off the water)?
2. Where are the gas and electricity meters?
3. Do any surfaces need special cleaning products, eg wooden floors?
4. What day are the bins collected?
5. Do you have any instruction manuals or warranties on any items such as the boiler etc?
6. Where did the kitchen and bathroom tiles come from?
7. Where did any fixed furniture come from, eg, kitchen cabinets?
8. Which company supplies the energy, broadband and home phone?
9. Where is the thermostat?

## NOTES

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On the move day

# SURVIVING THE MOVE

With a bit of organisation and some help from this guide, the moving day itself should already be much less stressful. You should have already informed everyone you need to thanks to our checklist and with a good removals team on hand plus your essential items kept to one side, everything should run as smoothly as it can. There are still a few things you'll need to remember though to keep things organised on the day and to hopefully save you some stress later.



Before you set off for your new house, check that your gas, electricity and water supplies are switched off at the mains, and windows and doors are fastened securely. Take a record of your final meter readings as this saves any disputes later on (try taking a photo using your phone).



If you have kids you've probably already rung around to see if relatives or friends can look after them for the day, but if you've had no luck then it's a good idea to make sure they're kept busy. Prepare some colouring books or car games if you have a long journey and keep a small box of toys aside so they can play in their rooms while you pack the van. This means they'll also have something to play with at the other end, and if you pack their things last then they'll be first off so they can start setting their bedrooms set up straight away.



## GET MORE ADVICE & TAILORED STORAGE TODAY



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