

# Your moving house checklist for First Time Buyers

Make your home move much easier by using a moving house checklist. An in-depth checklist, including all the tasks that need to be done before, during, and after your big move.



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There's nothing quite like the excitement of moving home, especially if you're a first-time buyer. Of course, along with the excitement, there's also a lot of potential stress involved. The good news is you can make your home move much easier by using a moving house checklist.

We've created an in-depth checklist, including all the tasks that need to be done before, during, and after your big move. All you need to do is tick them off.



## BEFORE YOU MOVE



There's a lot to get done before your moving day. You've made the offer on the house, your surveyor and [conveyancing solicitor](#) have done everything they need to do, and you're ready for the big move into your first home. Here's what you need to do next.

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### CONFIRM YOUR MOVING DATE



Your first step is to decide on the date you're going to move. For many people, that will be the same day as [the completion date](#). However, it doesn't have to be, and plenty of people take the time to get more ready to move even once they have the keys to their new home in their hands.

Think about your work schedule and family commitments before making a firm decision. You should also try to avoid moving house on Fridays, bank holidays, and weekends if you're using a removal firm, as these will tend to be the busiest (and most expensive) days.

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### GET QUOTES ON REMOVAL COSTS



Not everyone will need a removal firm to help with the move. First-time buyers living with their parents or renting furnished accommodation may not have much to pack at all. For those without a lot of possessions and furniture, using a car or hiring a van, and dragging in some friends to help with the move, will be much more practical.

For those first-time buyers who need the help of a removals company, always do some research and don't go for the first option you see. Try to get at least five quotes from removal firms, and make sure each one is registered with the [British Association of Removers](#).

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## HAVE A **BIG CLEAR OUT**



Now is the perfect time to declutter what you own. Go through drawers, cupboards, and check everything. If you've been living in the same place for a while, you'll probably have accumulated a lot of stuff, and it's likely not all of it is worth keeping. Old clothes, tatty furniture (or furniture that won't fit into your new home), and even old electronics can all be sold, given to family and friends, or donated to your nearest charity shop. That will make the next step of your moving house checklist much easier.



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## PACK EARLY AND **LABEL** **BOXES**



The next task on your moving house checklist is to start packing. It's amazing how quickly the big day will come, and it's common to find first-time buyers still frantically throwing things into boxes on the day of the move.

The earlier you **start packing**, the easier moving day will be. Don't forget to label every box by room, so you know what needs putting where on moving day. Make sure you have plenty of boxes and don't forget to start dismantling any large furniture items you won't be using until after the move.



## HAVE A MOVING DAY SURVIVAL KIT



This is the last box you need to pack and seal, meaning it will be the last thing that gets loaded for removal and the first thing to be taken into your new home. It's the single most important box to get right because it will contain everything you need to get comfortable and ready on moving day. The contents will depend on your priorities but should include items like:

- Toilet roll and kitchen roll
- Kettle/mugs/teabags/coffee/sugar
- Spare phone charger
- Bin bags
- Lightbulbs
- A toolbox
- Cleaning products
- Important documents such as the paperwork for your mortgage and your passport

These items could extend to more than one box, but however many it takes, make sure these are the first boxes taken into your new home. Write the word "essentials" on the box/boxes so that your moving day survival kit doesn't go astray or get mixed in with the rest of your belongings.



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## PREP YOUR INTERNET



We rely on the internet more than ever, so it's best to get this set up before moving in day rolls around. Check the local area for the best broadband speeds and start comparing prices. Don't forget it can take weeks for internet providers to set up your connectivity, so try and get this organised as early as possible.

It's also worth pointing out that internet providers don't tend to be the most reliable, communicative, or efficient companies. More than one first time buyer has found themselves living in their new home without the internet for a month.

If you're concerned about that because you work from home (or you just can't live without the internet), ask providers for a temporary hotspot you can use while you wait to be connected. Alternatively, talk to your phone company and request some extra data that month so that you can hotspot.

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## LET THE GOVERNMENT KNOW



One of the most common mistakes people make when they move into their first home is assuming they will be automatically added to the electoral roll. You won't be added automatically, but you can [register to vote online](#) in about five minutes using the government website.

Being on the electoral roll doesn't just mean you'll be allowed to vote; it also affects your credit score. Don't forget that every person living at the property needs to be registered, not just the people on the title deeds.

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## REDIRECT YOUR MAIL



If you're leaving your parent's home, this won't be such a big issue, but you need to know you're still going to get all of your post. If you're moving out of a rental property, then it's likely you won't know the people who will eventually be moving in, so it's best to be safe and use the [Royal Mail postal redirection service](#). It can be a little costly, especially if it's set up for more than one person. But it's going to be worth that spend if you're expecting important communications. Redirecting your mail is also vital from a safety perspective. If you don't get bills sent to your old address, you can't pay them. That could harm your credit score, and you could even find yourself approached by debt collectors. There's also the fact that ID fraudsters can use a single stray letter to steal your identity.

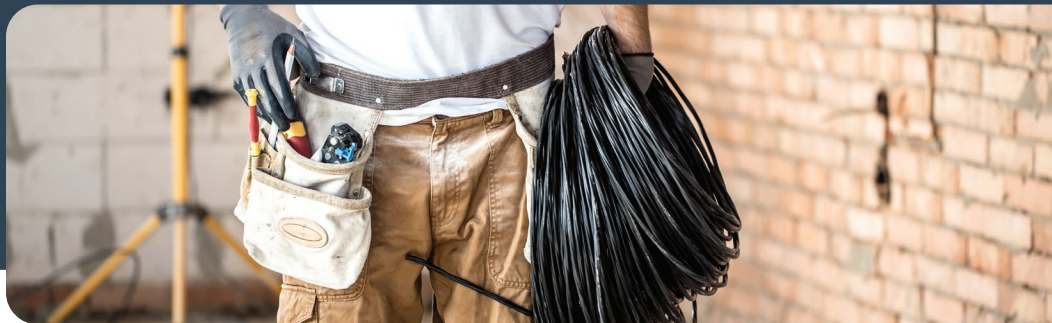
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## CONTACT UTILITY SUPPLIERS



You've already organised your internet, so now it's time to wrap up all of your utilities in your old home. This isn't something you need to do if you're moving out of your parent's home. For everyone else, you're going to need to get on the phone and start letting your electricity, water, and gas suppliers know you're going to be moving.



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## ORGANISE INSURANCE



You've probably spent more money on your first home than you've ever spent on anything. So skipping getting building insurance is extremely common. But organising insurance is critical and should be a vital part of your moving house checklist. Mortgage lenders may even insist you have some form of insurance once the property has passed into your ownership. Cutting costs by not having insurance can end up biting you in the wallet. Contents insurance might seem unnecessary, but if your TV gets broken during moving day, a lack of insurance will simply be frustrating.

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## REGISTER WITH A NEW GP



You should now be getting closer to your moving day, so the next part of your moving house checklist involves finding a new GP (unless you're moving somewhere extremely close to your old home).

It's straightforward to [register with a new GP](#), and all of the info you need is available on the NHS website.

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## CHECK YOUR MEDICATION



If you take regular medication, always make sure you have enough to last you throughout the moving process and beyond. You're going to be doing a lot of running around, calling, and emailing, so it's easy to overlook low medication levels until you're taking the last pill. So don't take the risk of running out and get more medication if your current stocks are low.

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## ARRANGE CHILD AND PET CARE



If you have any children or pets, it's a good idea to arrange some form of care for them on the day of the big move. Children will be easily bored, and pets will make everything more complicated. Ask friends and family for help.

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## TOGETHER KEYS



You may need to give the keys to the property you're leaving to the landlord. That should include any copies you have had made — so any spares you have and any copies cut for your neighbours, friends, or family.

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## DEFROST THE FRIDGE AND FREEZER



If you're taking a fridge and/or freezer with you, defrost them two days before moving day. It will make them safer and easier to move, and you'll be able to give everything a good clean too. Leave the doors of your fridge and freezer open, so any moisture can dry, meaning there's no risk of mould building up.

## ON MOVING DAY



You should now be as ready as it's possible to be for your moving day. If you've gone through your moving house checklist, everything should be set up and ready for the big day. Here's what you need to do on moving day itself.

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### CHARGE YOUR MOBILE PHONE



If you wake up on moving day without a phone, you're likely to complain about it all day and frantically search for charging points. If you have any portable power banks, make sure these are fully charged as well. Whether it's the removals firm or anyone you've got helping you, being contactable on moving day will be vital.

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### LOAD THE VAN SAFELY



However you're transporting your possessions to your new home, now is the time to start loading. If you're using professionals, this is something you can choose to help with, but it's not necessary (and actively discouraged by some firms). If you've hired a van and are loading it up yourself or with friends, remember to:

- Load the heaviest boxes and furniture first, ensuring the weight is distributed evenly across the van's floor
- Dismantle any larger items
- Make sure breakables and any fragile possessions are well-wrapped or boxed with bubble wrap/newspaper/sheets, and secure them in the inner side panel of the van

Don't forget to pack your box (or boxes) of essentials last!

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## CLEAN AND TIDY THE PROPERTY YOU'RE LEAVING



Finally, have one last clean and tidy of the property you're leaving. Wipe down skirting boards, counters, and clean the sinks, bath, and showers. Once that's done, you're ready to head to your new home!

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## TAKE UTILITY READINGS IN YOUR NEW HOME



Before unloading your van, take the utility readings for your new home. This will make it much easier to get set up with your new utility providers and ensure you only get a bill for the utilities you've used.



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## CHECK YOUR NEW HOME



When you're buying a home for the first time, it's far too easy to unpack and just hope for the best. Don't make the mistake of waiting for a water emergency before you learn how to shut off the water supply. Check with the property sellers if needed, so they can let you know where to find the following:

- Stopcock
- Any instructions for using appliances
- Meters for your gas and electricity
- The thermostat
- Fuse boxes

This part of the moving house checklist can save a lot of future headaches, even if it doesn't seem very important on your moving day.

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## UNLOAD THE VAN



If you have some spare cardboard boxes available, it's a good idea to flatten them and put them on the floor of your new home. This can help protect the flooring and prevent scratches or marks made when manoeuvring heavy furniture.

It's always best to make moving your furniture into the new home the priority, but this can be challenging if it's all buried beneath other boxes. Ideally, you should remove the boxes first and put them to one side before moving the bigger items. Trying to move those sofas, fridges, and wardrobes will be a lot trickier if you have to dance around stray boxes left in the middle of hallways or the middle of a room.

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## CHECK YOUR KEYS



Make sure the keys for your new home work. If you've hired a locksmith to change the locks, remember to keep all of the old and new keys separate to avoid confusion.



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## UNPACK



Everything has been unloaded and moved into your new home. So now it's time to start unpacking. Start with your box of essentials and then:

- Everything you consider to be a necessity
- The kitchen
- Bedrooms (if you have children, let them unpack and arrange their own space)
- Furniture arrangement
- Start personalising with photos and art on the walls, so you and anyone you're moving in with starts to feel more at home

Don't forget; this is now your home, so you don't need to unpack everything on the first day. Take the next few days, or even weeks, to make sure everything has a place and that everything is in the right place.

## CHANGE PET DETAILS



If you have any pets, the last job on your moving house checklist is to [change their details if they're microchipped](#). This is one of those jobs that it's easy to forget about.



## MAKE MOVING DAY EASIER WITH A MOVING HOUSE CHECKLIST

You are now all moved into your new home! Everything is done, and you've successfully made your way through all of those viewings, negotiations, exchange, completion, and so much admin that you probably don't want to read or sign a single piece of paper for a while.

However, there is still one final task when you move into your first home. Protect your investment. You've spent a lot of money on your first home, and you need to ensure it is protected. Make sure you either [update your will](#) or have one drafted for you. Should the worst happen, you can ensure that the right people get access to the property and its value.

If you need help with your will or have any questions about beginning the search for your first home, [contact the friendly office team at Lockings today](#). We can walk you through what you need to know and make sure you get the advice you need. Once we know a little more about your requirements, we'll match you to a solicitor with the right expertise to help you.