

Moving House Checklist: What to Do and When

A house move usually runs more smoothly when jobs are handled in the right order. Instead of trying to do everything at once, it helps to work backwards from moving day and tackle the most important tasks first.

4 to 6 weeks before moving

Start by confirming your moving date as early as possible. Once that is in place, begin comparing removal options, whether that means hiring a van, booking a removals company, or arranging help from family and friends. This is also a good time to declutter. There is no point paying to move things you do not want, need, or use.

You should also begin collecting packing materials such as boxes, tape, labels, bubble wrap, and protective covers. If you are moving from a rented property, check your tenancy obligations and notice periods. If you are buying, keep an eye on timelines so you can plan realistically.

2 to 3 weeks before moving

Begin packing non-essential items first. This might include seasonal clothes, books, ornaments, spare bedding, and items stored in lofts, garages, or cupboards. Label boxes clearly by room and, if possible, add a short note about what is inside.

You should also start notifying organisations about your move. This may include banks, insurers, utility providers, mobile phone providers, subscriptions, schools, employers, and your GP. Redirecting post can also help reduce the risk of missing important paperwork.

1 week before moving

This is the stage where planning really pays off. Pack most of the remaining contents of the home, leaving out only daily essentials. Confirm arrangements with your removals company or van hire provider and make sure you understand timings, access restrictions, and key collection arrangements.

Defrost freezers if needed, use up food where possible, and prepare an essentials bag with chargers, documents, toiletries, medication, snacks, drinks, and a change of clothes.

On moving day

Make sure boxes are labelled and ready to go before loading begins. Do a final check of all rooms, cupboards, loft space, garage, garden, and sheds. Take meter readings before leaving and keep important paperwork with you rather than loading it into the van.

Once you arrive, prioritise getting the beds, key kitchen items, and essential toiletries in first. You do not need to unpack everything straight away. Focus on getting the property functional.

After the move

Once you are in, update any final address details, check utility accounts, and test alarms, heating, lighting, and appliances. Unpack gradually, starting with the rooms you need most. A good move is not about getting everything done on day one. It is about staying organised enough that nothing important gets lost in the noise.

