

Countdown to Moving

Up To 4 Weeks Prior To Moving:

- Decide whether you need a professional moving firm or not. If you're thinking of moving yourself, look into the costs involved - several journeys over long distances can quickly add up. It may well be worth hiring the professionals.
- Hire removal boxes or tea chests if they are not supplied by the removal company.
- Label boxes with details of what's inside and where they're going at the new address.
- Start using up frozen and tinned food.
- Draw up a plan of where you want furniture to go in the new house.
- Take down fitted items that are coming with you - shelves, light fixtures, mirrors, etc.
- Sort out your cupboards and sell unused items or give them to a charity shop.
- Book a hotel if you think you'll need one during the move.
- Arrange for a friend or relative to help look after your children on moving day.
- Ensure you explain to young children in advance what is happening so that they know what to expect
- Book pets into kennels/catteries or arrange for friends/relatives to look after them during the move.
- Get your new address engraved on pet collars.
- Notify your children's old and new schools of leaving/arrival dates.
- Register with or log into lamMoving.com to start updating address change details, plus stop/start dates for services like gas and electricity.

1-2 Weeks Prior To Moving:

- Take advantage of our change of address card service.
- Arrange the professional disconnection of gas cookers and any other appliances that you are taking with you.
- Cancel deliveries of paper, milk, etc. and pay off any outstanding accounts.
- Return any library books and items borrowed from friends and neighbours.
- Put all your documents and valuables in a single safe place.
- Log into lamMoving.com to notify the following organisations/providers with your moving details:
 - Bank
 - Credit/store cards
 - Other financial companies, e.g. if you have a hire purchase agreement or loan
 - Utility providers, e.g. electricity, gas, water
 - Inland Revenue
 - National Savings and Premium Bonds
 - National Insurance/DSS Benefits
 - Pension
 - Insurers - motor, contents, life, travel
 - DVLA (for driving licence)
 - TV Licence
 - Phone/mobile/Internet
 - Local Council (for old and new address)
 - Charities and clubs
 - Magazine subscriptions

Countdown to Moving (continued)

1-2 Weeks Prior To Moving (continued):

- Tell your employer.
- Inform your stockbroker and/or companies in which you own shares.
- Inform your existing doctor, dentist, optician (and private medical care provider) and research new ones close to where you're moving.

3 Days Prior To Moving:

- Pack a bag with a change of clothes, essential toiletries and a 'survival kit' for the other end. Take things like light bulbs, fuses, tools, loo roll, candles, matches, cash, phone charger and a list of important telephone numbers.
- Do your last-minute laundry.
- Confirm that we will have the keys available to release to you, subject to solicitors' confirmation.

2 Days Prior To Moving:

- Empty, defrost and dry out your fridge/freezer if you're planning to put it in storage for any length of time.
- Seal packets, bottles or jars with tape to prevent any spillage.
- Make sure there will be enough space for removal vans at both addresses. Sort out lift access if you live in a flat.

1 Day Prior To Moving:

- Prepare food and drink for moving day: tea/coffee, juice, fruit, bread, cheese and things like pasties. Don't forget some plates, cups, cutlery, a sharp knife, and the kettle.
- Fully charge your mobile phone.
- Get a good night's sleep.

Moving Day:

- Settle the children with their carer if they have one. If not, set up a room that contains their toys and a few treats. Give older children specific tasks, like packing their own personal box.
- Give the removal team a full tour of the house.
- Keep the kettle boiling and the biscuits flowing.
- Strip the beds and keep the linen handy so you can pull it out for the first night in the new house.
- Once the van is loaded, walk around the house with a member of the removal team to check you've got everything you want in the van.
- Take the meter readings in your old and new homes.
- Relax!

Removals

Despite the effort that goes into preparing a property for sale, many people overlook the impact of good removal planning.

Here are a few suggestions that we hope will help you avoid some of the anxieties many people experience during this exciting but sometimes stressful time.

- Friday is the most popular day to move house. However, removal companies tend to get booked up, and if there were to be a hiccup, would they work on the Saturday? Even if they would, the van might have been booked out to someone else and not be available to complete your move easily. So aim to move mid-week if at all possible.
- Completion dates are often agreed before exchange. Once you have a tentative date in mind ask the removal company to pencil in the date, subject to confirmation. We work with a number of local removal firms and can sometimes arrange "pre-booked" slots at preferential rates on your behalf.
- You can save a lot of hassle by getting the removers to pack for you. But watch the quality of packing. Do they just put a pile of plates into a box, or do they wrap each one individually? Will they pack clothes in their existing chests/wardrobes etc., thereby saving space, or would they pack into boxes first, possibly at unnecessary cost?
- Don't wait until a buyer is found before getting a removal quote. In the same way that you should choose your estate agent with care, talk to several removal firms before deciding, without having to use the only one available on your chosen day.
- To be on the safe side, choose a removal company that is a member of BAR – the British Association of Removers. BAR Head office telephone : 01923 699480 and website : www.removers.org.uk
- Get a binding quote from the removal company including details of the expected number of hours the job will take, and ask about expected gratuities.
- Check what is included on their insurance and if there are any gaps, would these be covered by your own home insurance policy?
- Inform the removal company how many stairs there are at your new home, and if there are any potential access restrictions. Provide them with a list of things that are *not* to go.
- Watch loading and unloading and examine all items carefully before signing a receipt.

Packing Guide

General:

- From the time you decide to sell, put aside the following as you come across them: spare boxes, marking pen, bubble wrap, newspaper and tissue, parcel tape (lots of it) and scissors.
- A tape measure comes in surprisingly handy.
- Use strong boxes and do not overfill them – otherwise they cannot be stacked on top of another.
- Purchase special boxes for dishes, wardrobe and other special items.
- Pack audio-video equipment in their original boxes if possible and label audio leads for easy recognition later.
- If removing screws, tape them to the objects they are removed from.
- Label each box and indicate the following on at least two sides of the box: (a) Which room it should go in (b) Whether it is fragile (c) If it should be loaded last so it will be unloaded first.
- Name each room in the new property and stick labels with these names on the door of each so the removal men are clear as to which is which.
- Save room by using towels and blankets to wrap fragile items rather than bubble wrap, which takes up a lot of space and you'll only have to dispose of it later.
- Pack books tightly on end in small boxes. If they smell musty, sprinkle talcum powder between the pages and wrap the book before packing. Leave stored for a couple of months to eliminate the smell.
- Pack heavy and lighter things together to avoid excessively heavy boxes.
- Have rugs and curtains cleaned during the moving period so they will be fresh for your new property and will not have creased in transit.
- Pack medicines in a leakproof container.
- Carry all valuables with you.
- Take the kettle, mugs, tea, biscuits, milk, etc in the car with you.

Packing Guide (continued)

Plants:

- Two weeks before the move, prune where necessary to facilitate packing.
- Place the plants in cardboard boxes. Hold them in place with dampened newspaper. Use paper to cushion the leaves and place a final layer of wet paper on top to keep them moist.
- Close the boxes, punch air holes in the top, and label "PLANTS - FRAGILE".
- Keep in a cool dark place and load last.
- Unpack the plants as soon as possible after arrival. Remove plants through the bottom of the box to avoid breaking the stems. Do not expose the plants to much sunlight at first. Let them get gradually accustomed to more light.

Pets:

- Cats and dogs can be taken in your car. But remember to take food, water, a lead and newspaper or sheets to keep your car clean.
- Animals can get car-sick and will require frequent stops along the way if you are moving more than about 50 miles away.
- On arrival, put your cat/dog in a closed room (but well ventilated) and let them get used to the new surroundings before venturing further afield. This especially applies to cats, who should be allowed into the rest of the house only after a couple of days, followed by supervised access to the garden after a further week.
- Put something with a familiar scent on it with your cat or dog to help them settle quickly into your new home.
- Hamsters, birds and other small animals can easily be transported in your car. To help keep the animals calm and quiet, cover cages with a cloth. Also, make sure they have food and water available.
- It can be very impractical and risky to move fish. Check with your local pet shop for recommendations on moving your specific type of fish.