

Moving house – handy tips and tricks.

1. Arranging a home survey.

Moving house usually doesn't come around very often - so it is important to know that the initial step in planning your move is to arrange a visit from a trusted surveyor. Possible problems and obstacles that may affect your move at both your current and new address will be revealed during a home survey, along with organising a schedule for the big day and most importantly – supplying you with a quotation. For many people arranging a home survey is new territory, so here's a summary of how it works:

- The surveyor will take a look around your property in order to calculate the total volume of all household items that you want to be moved. It is essential to let your surveyor know if any items in the shed, garage or loft are included in your move to ensure that they are not missed or forgotten.
- The surveyor will establish a schedule for your moving day based on the travel time and mileage between your current and new address.
- The parking and access at both addresses will be looked into and planned for.
- You will be able to discuss which type of move you would like – for example if you would prefer to pack your items yourself, or have your belongings professionally packed. This will affect the price and schedule of your move.
- This is the best time to ask any questions or queries you have about the moving process, the surveyor is there to help so be sure that you understand the process of your removal.

2. Receiving and accepting your quotation.

You should receive a quotation in the next few days following a home survey. Make sure you thoroughly check the price and details included in your quotation, and once you are happy to go ahead, it is important to book your moving dates in as soon as you can to avoid any dates becoming fully booked. It is common for moving and completion dates to change, so be sure to keep all parties updated to ensure that your move goes smoothly. There are no extra charges for date changes until you make a full and final payment.

3. Preparation.

Once you have paid a deposit and booked your moving dates – it's time to get organised. Moving house gives you a great opportunity to throw out any clutter you no longer use or need. This means old clothes, toys, shoes and other items can be disposed of before you move into your new home. Here are a few vital tips to keep in mind:

- Let your doctor, dentist, school and any other important places know about your move. This way you can begin looking into and registering for facilities in your new area.
- Be sure to let friends and family know about your move too, keeping everybody in the loop ensures that you don't lose contact with those around you, and you might even be offered a helping hand along the way.

- ❑ Finalise all household bills and cancel any subscriptions or home deliveries ahead of your move. Moving house can be an expensive process, so getting your payments organised will help you avoid any unnecessary costs that you could do without.
- ❑ Moving with children and pets can add extra stress to the big day. Be sure to keep children involved by letting them pack their toys, and keep pets in a quiet room on the moving day. This will keep everyone occupied and comfortable during what can be a hectic time.
- ❑ Defrost the fridge and freezer before your actual moving day. Saving money is always a bonus, and this will eliminate wasting any food or money.
- ❑ Staying in contact with your removal company is vital. Do not hesitate to check in with them during the days leading up to your move and even on your moving day if you have any worries, questions or concerns. The receptionists will be there to help and make sure the day goes as smooth as possible.

If you are having an owner packed move:

- ❑ It is never too early to start packing. Being organised and prepared will be a huge help during the moving process – it usually takes much longer than expected to get everything done.
- ❑ Begin by packing your items room by room, labelling boxes along the way. This will help the crew to know which boxes belong to which room on the day, and will also help you to keep track of which rooms you have and haven't packed.
- ❑ Keep an inventory list of the items in your house, leaving packing important everyday items until last. This means that you won't forget anything, and you won't have to root through any boxes that are already packed in order to find any household items you might need.
- ❑ Prioritise items such as important documents and money. You should always keep these types of belongings to hand during your move, as you never know when you might need them.
- ❑ Pack fragile and valuable items in small, compact boxes. This will stop them rattling around during transit and ultimately will prevent any damages.
- ❑ Carefully wrap sharp items such as kitchen knives and scissors, taping the sharp ends. This will prevent any boxes becoming punctured and injuring anyone during transit.

If you are having a full packed move:

- ❑ Feel free to contact the office to arrange a delivery for a few boxes ahead of your move if you would prefer to pack your personal belongings yourself. This will get the packing process started, and may make you feel more comfortable on the day.
- ❑ Ensure that all items are ready to be packed when the crew arrive, this will save time and help the day run according to schedule.
- ❑ If your move takes place over a few days, it might be handy 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.

- Boxes will be labelled by the crew according to the room they are packed in. If you want any of your belongings to be put in a specific room in your new property, keep the crew informed and they will be happy to help.

4. *The big day.*

Moving house is a tricky and sometimes scary process – it's inevitable that you will have to overcome some obstacles leading up to your moving day, but we have a few tips to eliminate some of the stress:

- Your removal crew will be professional and friendly so feel free to check in with them on the day to ensure you feel comfortable and reassured throughout your move.
- Take a minute to take one last look around your old house before the removal van sets off, this will give you peace of mind about any items being left behind.
- Essential items such as your mobile phone, money and driving licence should be kept to hand all day.
- Be 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.
- It might be helpful to have food and refreshments to hand on the day. This will keep your energy levels up and keep any small children satisfied. Create a small box full of cutlery, plates and bottles of water for when you get to your new property. This will reduce the rush to unpack as you'll have a few handy items to already prepare.
- We will do everything we can to make sure that your vehicle and crew arrive at the scheduled time, however please keep in mind that they are subject to traffic delays. All drivers have mobile phones, and you will be notified of any potential delays as soon as they arise.
- Most importantly, remember to relax. Moving home is the beginning of a new chapter and although it can be a lengthy and stressful process, it can also be exciting and full of new opportunities. Remember to keep calm and enjoy the day.