



Tips for Moving, Packing and Storing

Moving house can be an expensive and stressful business. You can make it easier, if only by a little, by planning and investigating carefully. These tips are mainly about Packing and Storing but we have included a small checklist at the end about the things to remember when moving house or office.

You can use our website to:

- Calculate what space you need
- Get suitable packing materials
- Reserve a unit (or Express Booking)

There are lots of websites that give more advice on moving including www.helpiammoving.com which has a lot of useful information on almost anything associated with moving.

Be ruthless

Moving house is one of the best opportunities to have a clear out. So ask yourself 3 questions.

1. When was the last time I used it?
2. Will it be useful in the future?
3. Is it going to fit in my new home?

The more you store, the more space you'll need and the more it will cost. If you're only going to be storing for a short time, it's not that important but the longer you stay, the more you will have paid for stuff you don't really need or want.

The best tip we can offer you therefore is to be ruthless. Whether you chuck it out, give it to friends or charity shops, take a slot at a car boot sale or send it to auction, it doesn't matter, you'll save some money – you might even make some – but, almost certainly, you won't miss it or regret it.

How much space?

Before you even think of packing, the first thing to consider is how much space you will need for your furniture and other contents. The list below is a general guide according to the size of home you're moving from and includes the sort of transport you will need to achieve it.

HOUSE / FLAT SIZE	STORAGE SPACE	VEHICLE SIZE
1 bedroom	50-65 sq ft	Transit/Luton Van
2 bedroom	65-80 sq ft	Luton Van
3 bedroom	100-150 sq ft	7.5T Van/Lorry
4 bedroom	150-200 sq ft	Lorry

A 20ft long standard container needs approximately 175 sq ft when unpacked. You can get a more accurate idea by using our Space Calculator.



Packing

General

- Remember to pack things that are not going into storage or that you may need separately
 - Passports, personal documents
 - Jewellery and valuables
 - Selected clothing and personal items
- Make an inventory
 - Things that are going into storage and those that are not
 - If you've got a removals company, check for damage on furniture (and photograph more valuable items), list and agree it with them. Accidents do happen but it's not always easy to tell who caused them
 - Make sure you keep the inventory in a safe place and one you can remember
- Label boxes on all sides with the contents and which rooms they will go to eventually. Number them so you know if you're missing any
- Use Fragile labels where appropriate so that people, including you, are careful when moving them
- Try to keep boxes the same size so stacking is easier and space efficient
- Use the appropriate size box so that they're not too heavy
- Fill the boxes to capacity so that they don't crumple over time if anything is put on top of them. To prevent items moving around, fill gaps with crumpled newspaper
- Drawers – fill them if you must but don't fill them with heavy items for moving. You can always put things in them when you're actually in the storage unit and, to save space, you should
- Don't tape drawers and doors shut unless you know they won't be marked but make sure they are secure when travelling
- Don't pack clothes or bedding in plastic bags - they'll sweat
- Don't put fragile items in with heavy ones

Specific Items

- Clean and lightly oil garden tools, wrap or pad sharp edges to protect other items and remove petrol from machinery
- If it's possible, pack appliances and electronic equipment in their original boxes and pack the smaller items in a box again
- Curtains and clothing will get badly creased if not packed carefully and in the appropriate container



- Take legs off beds and tables if possible but make sure you keep any nuts or bolts safely in a labelled bag with the legs
- Check whether any appliances such as washing machines need any parts secured before travel
- Empty fridges and freezers and make sure any drawers or shelves are secure. Clean them well and dry them – you'll regret it if you don't
- Drain and dry your washing machine and dishwasher. Quite apart from avoiding spillages in travelling it won't do them any good in storage to still have water in them
- Coil up power cords on appliances and attach securely to them
- Turn bicycle handlebars sideways and cover chains and pedals to stop oil getting onto other things, and to protect neighbouring items from knocks
- Disassemble any furniture items including garden furniture, if you can, where their awkward shape will waste space. Make sure you keep fixings in a labelled, secure bag
- Pack small mirrors in bubblewrap and place in a box
- Cover large mirrors and pictures with bubblewrap or corrugated cardboard. They should be packed, if possible, in boxes rather than stacked loose
- Roll up carpets and rugs and secure them with tape or rope
- Books should be packed flat to protect their spines
- Having wrapped them individually, pack plates on their sides. Make sure the box is not too heavy and use crumpled newspaper to fill any gaps
- Place glass at the top of boxes to avoid smashing. Make sure that they are labelled to show which way up they should go

Safety

- If you're moving yourself, be careful moving large items whether they're furniture or electrical appliances. Don't lift too much and use a trolley, sack truck or appliance rollers
- Pack the vehicle safely whether your car or a hired van and don't overload it. Check tyre pressures
- When you're packing your unit, stack carefully so that boxes don't tumble

You cannot store:

- food or perishable goods
- birds, fish, or animals or anything else living
- combustible or flammable materials or liquids such as gas, paint, petrol, oil or cleaning solvents; compressed gases
- firearms, explosives, weapons or ammunition
- chemicals, radioactive materials, biological agents
- toxic waste, asbestos or other materials of a potentially dangerous nature

Packing Material

Make sure you have enough boxes and materials of the right type and strength so that everything is properly protected for travel and storage. It's much easier to pack things in boxes so that they can be stored safely and efficiently rather than have loose items.



You can get all your packing materials from Quickstore

- Boxes
 - Use strong boxes preferably double-walled particularly if you are going to stack them
 - Small boxes for books and heavier items
 - Larger boxes for bulkier items like cushions, bedding and household linen
 - Wardrobe boxes for clothing and curtains
- Packing tape - if only to seal the bottoms of boxes
- Bubblewrap
 - Delicate items such as ornaments
 - Televisions, audio equipment and computers to protect against knocks and scratches
- Tissue (acid free) for china and glass particularly if you are storing for longer than 3 months – newspaper can mark

- Dustsheets/blankets to protect unwrapped items from dust and scratches - particularly wooden furniture
- Sofa, chair and bed/mattress covers
- Labels and marker pens

Moving in to your unit

When you arrive at the storage centre:

- bring with some form of identity (driving licence or passport) and proof of address (utility bill)
- an inventory of your goods with values for insurance purposes
- a cheque book or credit card for your first payment and any details you may need to set up future automatic payments by Direct Debit

Storing

Before you start putting items into your storage unit, decide whether you need to have access to any of the stored goods and how frequently. Depending on your requirements you may need to consider leaving a partial gangway or racking. Whatever you may need should be put in last.

Use the space efficiently

The best way to achieve this is to plan how you will store each item. Bear in mind the following tips:

- Put a dust sheet on the unit floor. Leave an aisle if necessary
- Ensure that there are gaps to allow air circulation on all sides and in between items
- Put the heaviest and fullest boxes together with bulkier items in first
- Small items are always better stored on shelves or in drawers of chests
- Use the spaces in wardrobes, chests to store boxes but don't put anything heavy on beds or sofas in case they get deformed
- Store sofas and beds on end to make maximum use of height
- Chairs should be stacked seat to seat
- Use blankets to protect surfaces from scratching
- Mirrors and pictures should be stored upright with suitable protection between
- Put smaller, lighter or less full boxes on the top of tacks. By using the same size boxes you will be able to stack safely
- Fill gaps with any single items

- Refrigerators and freezers should have the doors propped open. You'll regret it if you don't
- Cover unprotected items with dust sheets
- If you want to be able to retrieve out of season clothes or sports goods, make sure you keep them in an easily accessible part

The Moving Countdown Checklist - Once you know you're moving

- Start looking for new doctors, dentists, schools and other services. Remember that you'll also need to look at telephones, electricity and gas
- Search for all the advice and tips you may need for moving
- Find out what space you may need for storage, search for van hire or removals companies. We can recommend some
- Start sorting through and clearing garages and attics
- Begin to weed out the things you might decide to junk

One month to go

- Start to pack anything you rarely use or use only at specific times of the year. Remember to label boxes and items with contents and destination
- If necessary, register with a new doctor, dentist, school etc if you are moving out of the area
- Make sure van hire, removal company (if appropriate) and storage are booked
- Contact your utility providers to give notice and find out how to terminate/transfer the services they provide

Two weeks to go

- Book any overnight accommodation you may need
- Begin packing anything that you won't need on a daily basis. You need to get all this type packed in the next 2 weeks leaving only daily essentials to the end
- Contact all utility and service companies to arrange supply to your new home
- Notify your insurers, house and car, etc, and make any necessary amendments. Check whether your current house insurers will cover your contents whilst in store
- Arrange for your post to be redirected for at least three months. If the sale falls through, remember to cancel it

One week to go

- Confirm with your solicitor that moving date is on schedule
- Ensure that all your packing is on target

One day to go

- Notify anyone who sends you important mail, your friends and family of your new address. Don't forget:
 - Banks and credit/store card companies
 - Driving licence and DVLA for any vehicles
 - TV licence
 - Internet, and television providers
- Put an essentials box together containing things like:
 - Kettle – tea, coffee, etc
 - Small tools – screwdriver, hammer, tape measure
 - Telephone numbers of suppliers of services
 - If you are moving yourself, get hold of a sack truck and any other moving aids you may need
 - Move all packed boxes into a suitable room downstairs. This will help when loading your goods on moving day

The day

- Everything should start happening as you planned but you need to check that your sale and purchase are complete before the final steps
- When you finally come to leave, go round your home – including garage, sheds and garden – and make sure you've got everything

Finally...

We meet people who are moving house almost every day; so if you ever got a question just give us a call – we're here to help.

Happy Moving!

