Moving House Checklist

A week-by-week UK checklist, from 8 weeks before your move to settling in. Tick each box as you go.

8 weeks before your move

- [ ] **Pin down your moving date.** If you're buying, you won't have a fixed completion date until contracts are exchanged, so ask your conveyancer for a realistic estimate and keep your plans flexible.
- [ ] **Line up your solicitor, survey and mortgage if you're buying.** Choose a conveyancing solicitor, book your property survey and finalise your mortgage early.
- [ ] **Get removal quotes and book early.** Ask for a fixed price rather than an hourly rate, check what's included (wrapping, dismantling, packing) and ask to see proof of goods in transit and public liability insurance.
- [ ] **Check your notice periods.** If you rent, read your tenancy agreement for how much notice you must give your landlord.
- [ ] **Declutter room by room.** Everything you don't move saves packing time and van space.
- [ ] **Measure big furniture and the new home.** Check that sofas, wardrobes and beds will fit through doors, round stairs and into rooms.
- [ ] **Decide whether you'll pack yourself.** Packing a three-bedroom home takes most people several evenings and weekends.
- [ ] **Check whether you'll need storage.** If there's a gap between moving out and moving in, arrange removals and storage before your dates are tied down.
- [ ] **Start a moving folder.** Keep your removal booking, conveyancing or tenancy paperwork, contracts and this checklist together, on paper or in one folder on your phone.
- [ ] **Apply for school places if you have children.** Contact the local council for your new address about in-year school admissions as early as you can.

4 to 6 weeks before your move

- [ ] **Get packing materials.** You'll need strong double-walled boxes, packing tape, bubble wrap or packing paper, wardrobe boxes for hanging clothes and a marker pen.
- [ ] **Start packing the rooms you use least.** Begin with the loft, garage, spare room, books, out-of-season clothes and ornaments.
- [ ] **Sort out parking for the removal van.** If either property has permit parking, yellow lines or a busy street, ask the council about suspending a parking bay or getting a parking dispensation for moving day.
- [ ] **Book broadband at your new address.** New connections can take a couple of weeks to set up, so book now if you want to be online from your first day.
- [ ] **Arrange buildings and contents insurance.** If you're buying, your mortgage lender will usually expect buildings insurance to start from exchange of contracts.
- [ ] **Book time off work.** Take moving day off, and ideally the day after for unpacking.
- [ ] **Plan childcare and pet care.** Moving day is safer and calmer with young children and pets out of the way.
- [ ] **Use up food in the freezer and cupboards.** Plan meals around what you already have, so there's less to move and less to throw away.

2 to 3 weeks before your move

- [ ] **Set up Royal Mail redirection.** Royal Mail needs at least five working days to set it up and suggests applying about three weeks before you move.
- [ ] **Tell both councils about council tax.** Tell the council you're leaving your moving-out date, and the council you're moving to your moving-in date, so your bills start and stop correctly.
- [ ] **Tell your energy and water suppliers.** Give your gas, electricity and water suppliers your moving date.
- [ ] **Update your address with DVLA.** Changing the address on your driving licence is free, and you can be fined up to £1,000 if you don't tell DVLA.
- [ ] **Tell TV Licensing.** Your licence moves with you, but it needs your new address.
- [ ] **Update your bank, cards and insurers.** This includes your bank and credit cards, car, home and pet insurance (your postcode can change your car insurance premium), pension, mobile phone provider, and any loans or finance.
- [ ] **Tell your employer, GP, dentist and optician.** If you're moving out of your GP surgery's area, you'll need to register with a new practice.
- [ ] **Update everything else.** Think subscriptions, online shopping accounts, delivery services, your vet, your children's schools, clubs and gyms, and friends and family.
- [ ] **Confirm the details with your removal company.** Check the date, both addresses, access issues (stairs, lifts, narrow roads, parking), what's being dismantled and roughly when the team will arrive.

Moving week

- [ ] **Defrost the fridge and freezer.** Switch them off at least a day before the move so the ice can melt and the inside can dry.
- [ ] **Pack an essentials box.** Include phone chargers, medication, toiletries, toilet roll, a kettle, mugs, tea or coffee, snacks, basic tools, bin bags, bedding and a change of clothes for everyone.
- [ ] **Keep valuables and documents with you.** Passports, house keys, jewellery, paperwork for the sale or purchase, laptops and anything sentimental should travel in your car or bag.
- [ ] **Finish packing and label everything.** Mark each box with the room it's going to, and write FRAGILE on boxes that need extra care.
- [ ] **Take furniture apart, or check that your movers will.** Keep screws and fittings in labelled bags taped to the furniture they belong to.
- [ ] **Confirm key collection.** If you're buying, ask your estate agent or conveyancer when and where you'll get the keys.
- [ ] **Arrange your end-of-tenancy clean, if you rent.** Check your inventory and leave the property in the condition it was in when you moved in, allowing for fair wear and tear.
- [ ] **Check the parking is sorted.** Make sure any bay suspension is confirmed for the right day, and ask neighbours to keep the space outside clear if they can.

Moving day checklist

Before you leave your old home

- [ ] **Take final meter readings.** Photograph the gas, electricity and water meters so the date and readings are on record, then send the readings to your suppliers.
- [ ] **Do a final walk-through.** Check every room, cupboard, the loft, the shed, the garden and behind doors.
- [ ] **Photograph the property if you rent.** Date-stamped photos of every room are useful evidence if there's a dispute about your deposit.
- [ ] **Secure the property.** Close and lock all windows and doors, and turn off lights and appliances.

When you arrive at your new home

- [ ] **Take opening meter readings.** Photograph the gas, electricity and water meters at the new property and send the readings to the suppliers.
- [ ] **Find the stopcock, fuse box and meters.** Knowing where they are before you need them can save you a lot of stress.
- [ ] **Test the lights, heating and hot water.** Check they work before the movers leave, so you can raise any problem with the agent or landlord straight away.
- [ ] **Tell the movers where things go.** Stand at the door, or put up room labels, so boxes and furniture go straight to the right room.
- [ ] **Check everything before the movers leave.** Make sure all your items have arrived, beds are put back together and nothing is damaged.
- [ ] **Make the beds first.** After a long day, having somewhere to sleep makes everything else feel manageable.

After you've moved

- [ ] **Tell HMRC your new address.** HMRC asks you to wait until you've moved before telling them.
- [ ] **Register to vote at your new address.** You need to register again when you move.
- [ ] **Register with a new GP and dentist if needed.** Registering with a GP in England is free, and you don't need proof of address or ID.
- [ ] **Check your post is being redirected.** If letters are still going to your old address, contact the sender to update your details.
- [ ] **Change the locks if you've bought.** You don't know how many keys to your new home are still out there.
- [ ] **Test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.** Do this in your first week, and replace any batteries or alarms that don't work.
- [ ] **Chase your tenancy deposit if you rented.** Once you and your landlord agree how much you'll get back, the landlord must return it within 10 days.
- [ ] **Recycle or pass on your boxes.** Flatten them for recycling, or pass them on to someone else who's moving.
- [ ] **Say hello to your neighbours.** It's a good way to find out about bin days, parking and local services.
- [ ] **Leave a review for your removal company.** If your movers did a good job, a short Google review helps other local people choose a team they can trust.

Moving tomorrow? Do these first

- [ ] Confirm the time and both addresses with your removal company or van driver.
- [ ] Switch off and defrost the fridge-freezer tonight.
- [ ] Pack an essentials box: chargers, medication, toiletries, kettle, snacks and bedding.
- [ ] Put passports, keys, documents and valuables in one bag that stays with you.
- [ ] Charge your phone and keep the agent's and movers' numbers handy.
- [ ] Take photos of the meter readings at both properties.
- [ ] Set up Royal Mail redirection today. It takes at least five working days to start, but it's still worth doing.

Who to tell when you move

Who	When	Why it matters
Royal Mail (redirection)	About 3 weeks before	Needs at least five working days to set up, and catches anything you forget to update.
Both local councils	2–3 weeks before	Council tax stops at your old address and starts at your new one.
Gas, electricity and water suppliers	2–3 weeks before, then readings on the day	Final and opening readings make sure you only pay for what you use.
DVLA	Before or as soon as you move	A legal requirement for your driving licence and V5C. You can be fined up to £1,000.
TV Licensing	Before you move	Moves your licence to your new address.
Banks, cards, insurers and pension	2–3 weeks before	Keeps statements secure and insurance valid. Your postcode can change premiums.
Employer, GP, dentist, schools	2–3 weeks before	Keeps payroll and health records correct. Register with a new GP if you've left the area.
Broadband and mobile provider	4–6 weeks before	Gives time for notice periods and a new installation.
HMRC	After you've moved	HMRC asks you to wait until you've moved before you update your address.
Electoral register	After you've moved	You must register again at your new address. It can also help your credit checks.

Moving in or around Slough?

Get a free fixed-price quote: movecraft.co.uk/get-a-quote | Call or WhatsApp 07424 862077

Official requirements checked against GOV.UK, NHS and Royal Mail guidance in October 2026. Full guide with FAQs: movecraft.co.uk/moving-house-checklist