

The Bag N Box Man Moving Tips

When to pack

Try not to leave packing your removal boxes until the day of your home move. Ideally you want to have everything boxed up and ready to go as soon as your estate agent has called you to release your new keys.

Packing your cardboard boxes with items that you don't use on a daily basis can be done as soon as you know that contracts have been exchanged.

Packing materials

Get hold of good quality packaging products for moving home, in particular strong, cardboard boxes.

Make sure you have a good selection of packing boxes in different sizes for the job in hand. You'll need medium sized cardboard boxes for small, heavy items such as books (if you fill a large box with heavy items it becomes too heavy to lift). Large removal boxes can be filled with lighter, bulky items. Bed linen and duvets are best packed in Tea Chest storage boxes.

Also, make sure you have plenty of tape and a tape gun – absolutely essential for sealing cardboard boxes quickly and securely.

How to pack

Large items

The best scenario for very large items such as television sets will be to use their original cardboard box. If you don't still have these, use plenty of bubble wrap and make sure you tie up the cables to avoid tripping over it on the way to the van. Remember to tape the remote control to the inside of the packing box too!

Clothing

Don't just throw your clothes in bin bags. Make life easier for yourself (and the removal people) by simply transferring your clothes to a Cardboard Wardrobe. This will keep your clothes clean and crease free during transit. In addition, the space at the bottom of the cardboard wardrobe is handy for storing shoes and handbags.

Mattresses, sofas & chairs

Protect your mattresses with mattress covers. These thick, heavy duty plastic covers will prevent your mattresses getting scuffed or marked. Because of their size, mattresses are easily damaged. Packaging products such as mattress covers can also be used for covering sofas and chairs particularly if the weather is wet on your removal day. When you get to the other end, they can be either left on the mattress to prevent moisture damage or used as large rubbish bags.

China, crockery & glass

Wrap china, crockery and glass in acid free tissue paper. This will help prevent the dulling of your china and once sealed safely in a cardboard box, will protect it during your home removal.

What about your best crystal or the bottles of wine in your rack? You'll need to keep these separated during transit to prevent them banging together and breaking. Adding tissue paper or bubble wrap to this equation will give you extra peace of mind during your removal.

Utilities

Make sure that you have informed each of these utilities companies that you are moving home and, if possible, see if you can get the account simply changed over rather than having them cut off. This will save your buyers having to pay any re-connection charges once they move in.

- Gas
- Water
- Electricity
- Cable / Satellite Television
- Broadband Connection
- Telephone

Services

There may be many different companies that service your home and these will also need some action unless, for instance, you still want all of your post turning up at your old address.

- Post (redirection)
- Milk (cancellation)
- Window cleaner (cancellation)
- Cleaner (cancellation)
- Newspaper delivery (cancellation)
- 'Veg Box' delivery (cancellation)

Before you leave your old home

Moving house can be just as exciting as it is arduous and leaving a place clean and tidy with information about the services / area will help your buyers settle in a little easier. Below are some tips on how you can make their lives a little easier.

Cleaning

Leave your house as you would hope to find it. We're not talking a full spring clean here but wiping ring marks from work surfaces, vacuuming up the dust from behind long-standing items after you've moved them and giving the toilet a once-over goes such a long way to making people feel more comfortable with their new environment (remember they will have had a tough day of packing, lifting and travelling behind them already).

Rubbish

Remember to empty your bins and write down the times and days of refuse recycling collections so that your buyers know when to leave theirs out.

Keys

Leave out all the keys that relate to your property. The front door key goes without saying (as the agent will probably hold these) but keys for things such as sheds, greenhouses, outbuildings and, more importantly, windows will need to be tagged so that your buyer knows which is which.

Utilities

Make sure that all of your utilities (Gas, Water, Electricity etc) are switched off (not cut off) and leave operating instructions for things such as the central heating, gas fires and boilers plus locations for things such as Stop Cocks for Gas and Water and Mains Switches for Electricity.

Also point out locations of utility meters and take meter readings, leaving copies for your new buyers so that there can be no dispute over any utility settlement.

Fixtures & fittings

Do a quick check against your fixtures and fittings list (which your solicitor will have forwarded to you) to make sure you have left all that you said you would leave.

Forwarding address

You may wish to leave a forwarding address if you have chosen not to have your mail forwarded directly by the Post Office.

When you arrive at your new home

No doubt you will be fairly weary yourself once you arrive at your new home. No one says that you have to do everything the same day, after all you will probably be spending a fair amount of time getting the place just the way you want it anyway. So, these pointers may help you move comfortably into your new home.

Prepare for bed

Always, always put the beds up first because the last thing you'll want to be doing on the day of moving is put up your bed at midnight when you are already tired.

Utilities

Switch on all of your utilities (if your sellers are using these tips, they should all be off) and pay special attention to the hot water heater / boiler.

Find your utility meters and take readings. Send these off to the relevant company **IMMEDIATELY** so that you can start your new account and verify the readings that your sellers have potentially already given them.

Keys

Familiarise yourself with the keys to your property and **ALWAYS KEEP ONE ON YOU** to avoid getting locked out (believe us, this does happen). Better still, arrange for a lock smith to change all of the locks at your property to give yourself added security.

Pets

Keep pets inside if possible. Cats especially need to get used to their surroundings before they feel comfortable enough to venture outside.

We can't guarantee a smooth ride every step of the way but follow these tips and they will go a long way to helping you avoid a lot of the hassle that moving can create.

Happy moving!