Moving House Checklist

A UK move runs on **exchange of contracts**, not on a countdown. Do the slow jobs before exchange, then tick off the rest in the week or two between exchange and completion. Moving date: _____ Exchange date: _____

1. Offer accepted

no date needed yet

- [ ] Instruct a solicitor or conveyancer
- [ ] Book your property survey
- [ ] Get 2 to 3 removal quotes, each with a home survey
- [ ] Tell the removal firm about access, stairs and parking at both ends
- [ ] Start decluttering: sell, donate or tip
- [ ] Start a "do not pack" pile for keys, documents and essentials
- [ ] Renting? Check your notice date (2 months, in writing)

2. While the legal work runs

- [ ] Pack books, spare rooms, loft and garage first
- [ ] Label every box with its room, on more than one side
- [ ] Measure large furniture against doors and stairs at the new house
- [ ] Use up freezer food and cupboard tins
- [ ] Arrange storage if your dates might not line up
- [ ] Find childcare and pet care for moving day

3. Exchange day

the date is now fixed

- [ ] **Confirm your removal booking**, the same day
- [ ] Buildings insurance on the new home starts
- [ ] Book broadband now, as installs can take 2 weeks
- [ ] Set up Royal Mail redirection (needs a few working days)

4. Between exchange and completion

- [ ] **DVLA: driving licence** address (fine up to £1,000)
- [ ] **DVLA: V5C log book**, a separate job
- [ ] Council tax: tell the old and the new council
- [ ] Gas, electricity and water suppliers
- [ ] Bank, cards, employer, pension
- [ ] Schools and nurseries
- [ ] Defrost the freezer the day before

5. Completion day

- [ ] Photograph every meter reading, old and new house
- [ ] Put the first-night box **in your car**, not the van
- [ ] Strip the beds and bundle the bedding inside the duvet
- [ ] Expect to be out by about midday
- [ ] Keys are often released early to mid afternoon
- [ ] Leave keys, codes and manuals for the buyer
- [ ] Do a last walk round: lofts, sheds, cupboards

6. First-night box

- [ ] Kettle, mugs, tea
- [ ] Phone chargers
- [ ] Toilet roll
- [ ] Bedding and towels
- [ ] Medicines
- [ ] Bin bags
- [ ] Box cutter, screwdriver
- [ ] Torch, light bulbs
- [ ] Snacks and drinks
- [ ] Pet food and bowls
- [ ] Cleaning spray, cloths
- [ ] Kids' favourite toy

7. Who to tell when you move house

- [ ] **DVLA**, driving licence (legal duty)
- [ ] **DVLA**, V5C log book (legal duty)
- [ ] **Old and new council**, council tax
- [ ] **Electoral register**, register again
- [ ] **HMRC**
- [ ] **Benefits**, if you claim (straight away)
- [ ] GP surgery and dentist
- [ ] Pet microchip database
- [ ] TV Licence (update, don't cancel)
- [ ] Bank, credit cards, loans
- [ ] Home, car and life insurance
- [ ] Employer and pension providers
- [ ] Mobile, broadband, subscriptions
- [ ] Schools, clubs, vets, opticians
- [ ] Royal Mail redirection
- [ ] Friends and family

Your UK passport has no address on it, so there's nothing to update.

8. Moving-in day

- [ ] Find the stopcock, fuse box and gas shut-off
- [ ] Test the smoke and carbon monoxide alarms
- [ ] Check the heating and hot water work
- [ ] Check what the sellers left against the fittings form
- [ ] Label each room's door to match the boxes
- [ ] Put the beds up first

9. First weeks in the new home

- [ ] Register with a new GP if you've changed area
- [ ] Find out bin days and order bins if needed
- [ ] Change the external door locks
- [ ] Boiler service by a Gas Safe engineer
- [ ] Keep cats indoors for at least 2 weeks
- [ ] Check contents insurance shows the new address
- [ ] Meet the neighbours

Useful numbers and dates

- [ ] Solicitor: _____
- [ ] Estate agent: _____
- [ ] Removal firm: _____
- [ ] Broadband install date: _____
- [ ] Key collection from: _____
- [ ] Redirection starts: _____

Notes

Access, parking, items needing special care...

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