



7 SIMPLE STEPS TO

Minimise Moving Day Stress

Whether you're moving around the corner or to another country, follow our seven steps to minimise moving day stress!



Matt Ballard's tips for moving success

“Moving is one of the most stressful times in our lives, so we’ve put together some of our expert tips and tricks gleaned from our experience moving customers all over the globe. Whether you’re moving around the corner or to another country, follow our seven steps to minimise moving day stress - and thank us later!

I’ve worked in every role within the removals industry and some of the biggest headaches can come from the smallest oversights. We’ve highlighted the most common issues homeowners face when moving to a new property and the ways that they can be resolved so you can focus on enjoying your new home and sticking the kettle on.

Have a read through our top tips to make your move as stress-free as possible - we recommend printing it off so that you can tick off each job as it crops up and know what needs doing at-a-glance.

Remember, we have a whole range of services available and we can tailor every element to suit you and your family’s specific needs. Drop us a message or pick up the phone if you have any queries.”

Matthew Ballard



STEP

1

Where do I start?

Minimising moving day stress begins long before the day itself.

First off, decide how you'd prefer to move from the following options.

I'd like to use:

- Man with a van
- DIY move - hiring a van yourself
- Professional removal services

Man with a van

The name for this essentially outlines the service you'll get! It's typically cheap and cheerful but exposes you and your belongings to a great deal of risk when it comes to liability and damage.

This might be fine if you have a small number of non-valuable belongings but, whether it's a local bloke or a family friend, we recommend steering clear of this option to protect your assets and avoid putting any friendships under strain! Nothing sours a home move quite like damaged or missing property!

Hiring your own van

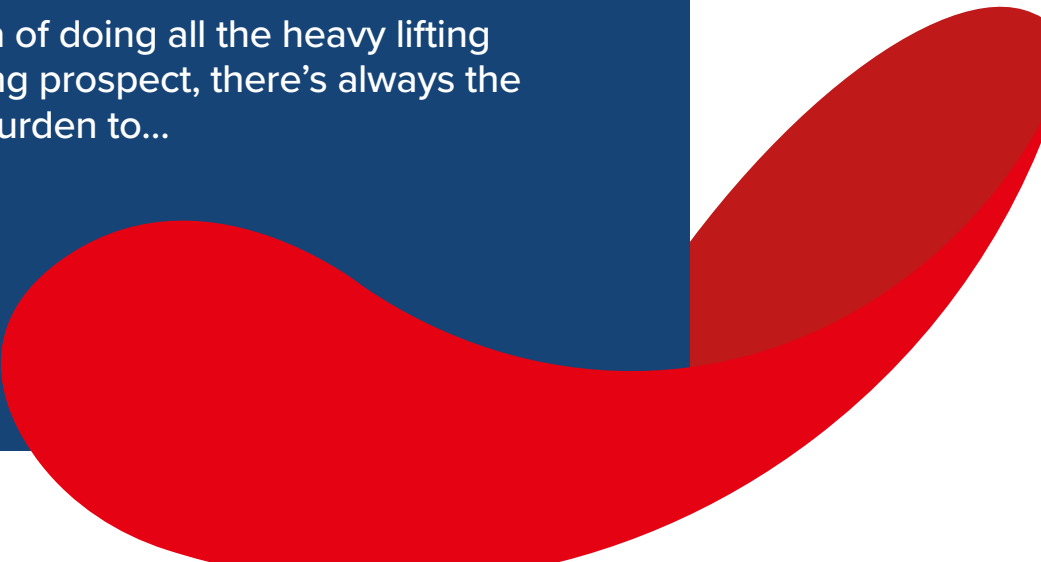
If you think this route might be best for you, be sure to carefully consider the weight restrictions when loading your valuables. If the combined weight of your assets is more than the established limit, you could find yourself facing a hefty fine - or worse, being stranded by the side of the motorway on the way to pick up your new set of keys! (Hope you packed sandwiches!)

As with anything, this can work well if you commit to doing your research, but it does put all the onus on you to pack, haul, load, unload and unpack your valuables - both ahead of and on the big day!

If you're doing this, make sure you lift and carry things safely: Bend with your knees, avoid twisting movements, get someone to help you carry large or heavy objects, and don't be tempted to carry heavy loads to make fewer trips.

If (like us!) you're not afraid of a bit of hard work, you can always simplify the process with Ballards Van Hire. We have a modern fleet of vans available for all your removal needs, helping you to get to your new location with ease.

If, however, the idea of doing all the heavy lifting yourself is a daunting prospect, there's always the option to shift the burden to...



Professional removal services


Yep, that's us! Unsurprisingly, this is the service we'd recommend for the vast majority of home moves. It ensures that the big jobs are taken care of, your valuables are safe and sound, and you won't have to worry about lugging the sofa down the stairs!

With Ballards Removals, you'll receive a cost-effective quote from the team after a visit from one of our professional estimators - or we can do this via a video chat if you prefer.

Once we know the scale of the job and we've seen everything that needs moving, packing and dismantling, you'll get a fixed price quote straight into your inbox (or letterbox).

The peace of mind of knowing that every element of your move is in expert hands is cheaper than you might think. Speak to our friendly team and we'd be happy to help.

(Plus, it saves rooting around the allen keys to deconstruct the bed!)



Press the button below and our friendly team will be more than happy to help.

GET A FREE QUOTE



Pro Tip No1: It pays to be nosey.

When deciding which removal company is right for you, it's vital to check that they are trade approved and both legally compliant and reliable (like we are). Don't get wrangled by a cowboy! Read reviews, check out websites and get in touch to find out how they can help you.

Pro Tip No2: Cover all your bases

It's worth keeping in mind that a variety of home insurance providers only insure possessions that have been transported via a professional removal service. If you decide a DIY move is more up your street, then it's likely you'll need to look at sourcing some alternative insurance to cover your valuables.

STEP

2

Get a head start!

Start getting organised eight weeks before you move

It might seem like you have ages to go until the big day, but don't get complacent - it pays to start getting things organised sooner rather than later to avoid any unpleasant surprises!

Whether you've opted for a DIY move, a man with a van, or a professional removal service, check out our moving day checklist on the next page to get started!



Your Moving Checklist

□ Do you need storage solutions?

If so, check to see if the removal services you've chosen can provide you with secure solutions for long or short term storage.

□ Need anything returning or retrieving?

If you have lent out any belongings to neighbours or need to return anything you have borrowed, now's the time to do it if you want to avoid arguments or accidentally lugging something to your new home, only to return it a few weeks later!

□ Do schools need notifying about the upcoming move?

They will do, obviously, but perhaps counter-intuitively, most parents find it best to secure a place for their little ones at their new school before notifying the old school of the move. For admin purposes, at least, the old school won't be able to do much until your child is officially 'off-role' - but of course, a polite but informal heads-up can go a long way towards easing the transition for your little one!


Now's also the time to check what supplies or uniforms they'll need once you're safely in your new home.

□ What new products do you need for the new home?

You probably have loads of exciting ideas for decorating your new home but you should really consider where you'll put your belongings when you move in. Even if you have everything you need at your current home, the layout and dimensions of the new property are likely to be different and could impede the use of appliances and even create access issues - so it pays to measure existing furniture and items so that you can carefully consider if anything needs replacing to make it a better fit for your new home.

□ Will you need everything at your new property?

We're not suggesting a cull of your prized possessions, but now is an ideal time to declutter and get rid of anything that has outlived its usefulness or perhaps won't be needed at your new home. Whether it's clearing out the attic or wading through the garage, you'll want to make sure anything you don't want at the new home is well out of the way by the time it comes to packing up your valuables.

A large, abstract red graphic element in the bottom right corner of the page, consisting of several overlapping, curved shapes that create a sense of movement and depth.

Packaging is a key part of packing

When it comes to securely moving your valuables, don't skimp on getting the right gear. Now isn't the time to put cost over value; high-quality packing materials are a must for any move.

High quality packaging can make all the difference in preventing knocks, jolts and scrapes from ruining your possessions.

Ballards offers you professional-grade boxes and packaging materials designed to keep your bits and bobs safe and sound. If you're watching the pennies (and who isn't after such a big purchase?) then you can even opt for our pre-used packaging boxes, which will help you save cash and create less waste - so it's good for your wallet and the environment too.

To help transport clothing, we even offer portable wardrobes, meaning you won't have to lug around endless bin bags or cram suitcases to the seams!

Packing is an easily overlooked skill, so take the time to ensure everything is securely covered and suitably padded in packaging that's sturdy enough to support its weight





Pro Tip No3: Don't bank on it.

It might seem like a good idea to move on a Friday or a bank holiday Monday, but this can lead to an array of issues! If anything crops up or if anything is delayed, you could face difficulties if key contacts are unreachable. We'd recommend avoiding moving on any days like this, where shops and businesses are likely to be closed or have reduced opening hours. Similarly, if you're moving out of the country, check which new national holidays will apply and ensure you avoid them.

Banish last minute panic

For the month before the move

We know it's tempting to put off those odd jobs and to stick your feet up ahead of the big day, but there's loads to be done to make life easier on the day itself.

Here are some crucial considerations to bear in mind as the big day draws closer:

Things to consider:

Maintain communication with solicitors

Even if there has been an exchange of contracts and you think you're home-free, moving dates will still need to be confirmed. Be sure to stay in touch with your solicitor to get any crucial updates - and keep your removal company in the loop too (if you've decided to use one, that is)

Are there parking restrictions in place?

Whether at your current location or your new home, make sure you're aware of any and all parking restrictions - and that your removal company is too - to make loading and unloading as simple as possible. The last thing you want on moving day, is a parking ticket or a clamp.

Will you need a telephone line or broadband at your new home?

If you're going to need a landline or you can't live without broadband from day one, then it's best to check in advance with your current provider. Be sure to give them a few weeks to get this up and running, with a switchover date for your account. If they can't provide the right service for your new address, it's best to know ahead of time so you can find a new provider that can. For phone lines, most providers will allow you to keep your current number at the new address - so be sure to flag this if it's something you'd like, to avoid falling out of touch with anyone who still likes to call you on the landline instead of mobile.

Things to consider (Continued)

□ Anything that you'd like to move yourself?

If you have something personal that you'd prefer for the removals service not to move (or touch at all!) then make sure that you store them somewhere safe. Make a note of their location or pop them somewhere that you regularly check to avoid leaving a 'welcome' gift for the new owners!

□ Address any finals bills with your energy provider

Tell them about your moving-in date well in advance and make sure that you settle any final bills before you relocate. It would also pay to flag this with your water supply company so that you can arrange a visit for a metre-reading to avoid being billed for any pro-rata use beyond your usual bill term.

□ Will you need overnight accommodation?

If you're going to be travelling on a particularly long journey between your two properties, then be sure to arrange overnight accommodation in advance. Most hotels will allow you to book on a flexible basis, so you can cancel on or prior to the day if you no longer need to hang your hat there.

□ Does your motor need any maintenance?

Besides the obvious irk of wanting to avoid being broken down on move day, if your vehicle has any niggling problems which could jeopardise your relocation process, be sure to get this sorted before the big day. It would also pay to check when your MOT is due and get this and any potential services booked in ahead of time.

□ Avoid missing any mail - set up a postal redirect

Even if you think you've told all your service providers about the impending move, there's usually something or someone that will slip through the cracks! To avoid missing out on any mail (or inadvertently sharing sensitive information with the new homeowners), let Royal Mail know at least a week before the move and set up a postal redirect as this takes a minimum of 5 working days to get up and running, although this does carry a fee.

Avoid any missteps

For when there's one week to go

You're so close to the finish line, so make sure you don't fall at the final hurdle. Be sure that these last few jobs are dealt with before the big day...

The last few jobs...

Does your removals provider have a prohibited items list?

You'll need to make sure you've checked with your removals company to see if there are any items which they are unable to move - either due to logistics or legal reasons. This could include anything from nail polish remover to cleaning supplies (as they are considered hazardous materials), so ensure you discuss this with them now and pop anything they are unable to transport in your own vehicle.

Clear your cupboards

If you have a full fridge, freezer, or pantry, now is the time to start clearing them out in time for your upcoming move date. Some people prefer to avoid buying new food or drink items in this period to use up their existing stock, particularly if perishables are involved.

Are you putting your fridge in storage?

If so, you'll need to allow plenty of time to let it properly defrost and fully dry out to avoid any mould developing. This can take up to a week, so be sure to stock up on alternative foods which don't need refrigeration during this time.

Everyday Essentials

- Light bulb(s)
- Bottle-openers
- Tea/coffee
- Milk/sugar
- Spoons, cups
- Kettle
- Antibacterial wipes
- Toiletries
- Electrical chargers - phone/laptop/tablet
- Portable phone charger
- Small first-aid kit
- Scissors / stanley knife
- Torch and compatible batteries

Entertainment for the kids

- Books and toys
- Spare clothing
- Snacks
- Toiletries

Prep for your pets

- Food and dish / water bowl
- Treats
- Lead
- Litter box/poo bags
- Any blankets or toys known to calm them

Get ready for your new home

For the final days before the move

Not long to go! Don't forget these tasks:

☐ Have you confirmed a time for picking up your new keys?

Make sure you contact the relevant parties in advance to avoid being stuck out in the cold.

☐ Provide emergency contact details

Even the best laid plans can be caught in logistical difficulties (such as road closures or heavy traffic) so ensure that your removals company can reach you to keep you updated about any potential problems.

☐ Disconnect non-essential appliances

Now's the time to flip the switch on any appliances you won't be transferring to your new abode.

☐ Dismantle cumbersome furniture

Check with your removals company which elements of your furniture they are happy to dismantle and reassemble for you. To save time on move day, it could be an advantage to deconstruct any especially difficult items in advance, such as beds or bookcases.

☐ Store important documents in a secure place

Put any crucial documentation in a safe place and carry them with you if possible, to minimise the risk of misplacing them among your belongings. It is best to treat this like a carry-on bag for air travel, so group all your must-haves together and keep them close at hand.

☐ Leave 'low battery' at home!

Make sure that you have your mobile phone chargers with you and take care to leave time to charge it to full capacity before you leave, just in case. It may be worth investing in a portable charger if the journey to your new home is particularly long.

☐ Pack anything you'll need for an overnight stay

Make sure you have any essentials you'll need if you're planning on staying in a hotel or elsewhere while the move is taking place (such as medications and a change of clothing) in case you need to break up each leg of your journey.

The big day!

It's moving time!

After all of your careful preparation, the big day has finally arrived! While it might be tempting to screech down the driveway and leave your old life in the rearview, make sure you don't neglect these final few essentials.

Ready, set. Go!

- Set your alarm, ensuring the new homeowners are aware of the activation code**
- Keep all core kitchen items (such as kettle, cups etc) in a clearly marked box. It may pay to mark it in colourful tape or markings to make it easier to locate when you arrive craving a cuppa!**
- Ensure your old property is as clean as possible**
- Double check that you have all your valuables**
If there are any items that you'd prefer your removal provider not touch, set these to one side and ensure they are clearly marked as not to be moved. Ensure you relay to the team that they're not to move the specified items - or they may simply think they're lending you a hand.
- Show the removal team around your property**
Ensure that they are aware of all accessible areas so they can conduct a thorough inspection and make certain no boxes are overlooked.
- Check that everything that can be properly switched off is (such as the oven and boiler)**
- Manage the little ones - both children and pets**
It's no secret that children tend to be very excitable, and with all the energy surrounding a house move, they may be likely to be especially restless or anxious. It may pay to ask a family member or trusted family friend to look after them during the move. Similarly, some pets can experience acute anxiety when leaving home, especially as they're unlikely to know what's happening. Consider investing in a boarding kennel or asking a trusted friend (that the animal is familiar with) to soothe them during this difficult transition.

□ Last-minute prep

Often overlooked, but it pays to ensure that you have a packed lunchbox (or other provisions) and a flask of hot tea or coffee to tide you over during what is sure to be a long day. Keeping your energy levels up could help avoid any 'hangry' arguments with loved ones. It may pay to include over-the-counter painkillers and other typical medicines, just in case.



Pro Tip No4: Prioritise Parking!

If it's difficult securing a parking space at your new property, consider parking your vehicle slightly further away to allow your removal team the best possible access.

They'll need plenty of space to move your furniture around and carefully pivot your possessions.

Enjoy your new home!

Unload, unpack, unwind.

Now that you've secured the keys to your new home, your journey is almost over - and we're sure that a wonderful new chapter awaits. However, before you turn the page and settle in, be mindful that there are a few final touches to make life easier for you later on.

Once you're in, check the following:

Check that the utilities are all functional

Inspect the property for any sign of trouble

Even if your house was sold as vacant possession, it's likely that this is the optimal time to spot any problems before any telltale signs of trouble are masked by your furnishings.

Take all boxes to their corresponding rooms if your removals team hasn't done this for you

Pay special attention to your children and pets

They're likely to be anxious or ill-at-ease for a while, until they adjust to their new environment.

Locate your colourful box of kitchen essentials and stick the kettle on!

You've done all the prep and now you can enjoy a brew before getting stuck into the unpacking.

Final tips:

Don't forget to read your metres at the new home when you first arrive

Ensure that you've communicated the move of postal address to any key contacts or services, such as your TV licence, Internet service provider/landline, and utility providers.



Thanks for reading our guide!

We wish you the very best with your move.

If you would like to find out what it would cost for a professional moving service to move you, please press the button below!

GET A FREE QUOTE