

The Essential Guide to DIY Removals

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Moving house by yourself can seem difficult - but it doesn't need to be. Follow the simple steps in this guide and save hundreds of pounds by doing your own removals - without getting stressed out or breaking anything.

Planning

- Work out how much you have to move and what size vehicle you will need ([click here](#) to find a van hire branch near you).
- Check that there is access and parking for your chosen size of vehicle at both ends of your journey - remember any height and width restrictions
- Always overestimate and make allowances for delays.

Remember:

Consider making more than one trip with a smaller van if distances are short.

It can make access and loading much easier.

Packing

- Remember that boxes have to be carried, so put a few heavy items (e.g. books) at the bottom and then fill up with lighter stuff, such as clothes or cushions.
- Colour code or clearly label every box with its contents so you know where it goes when you unload the van.
- When packing glass or china, wrap each object in bubble wrap or newspaper. Box them carefully so they won't move too much.
- Set aside a day or two to pack and do nothing else in this time. You'll get it done a lot faster this way.

Remember:

Buy or acquire plenty of strong boxes in advance.

Online packing stores sell complete sets for quite low prices, saving you hunting at the last minute.

Aim for a mixture of sizes - you can even get 'wardrobe boxes' to hang your clothes in.

Loading

- Put all the heaviest objects - such as sofas and wardrobe - on the floor towards the front of the van. Make sure they cannot move - tie them to the side of the van or wedge them in.
- Put the lightest boxes and objects highest up but always make sure that nothing can move - a few cheap ratchet straps (available on the high street) are useful for this.
- Use old blankets or sheets to protect furniture from damage.
- Box up everything possible - try to avoid being left with any loose, unpacked items.
- Remember - if it can move, it will move.

Remember:

Drawers provide excellent storage. To load a chest of drawers, remove all the drawers and carry them out separately.

Then reinsert them and tie them closed or push them against the side of the van - otherwise they will come open when you're driving.

Driving

- Take it slow and steady. Remember that stopping times will be greater than in a car.
- Always have someone guide you back when reversing.
- Remember that speed limits are lower for vans - 50mph on single carriageways and 60mph on dual carriageways.

Remember:

Driving a modern van is quite easy - almost too easy.

Remember to keep your speed down on twisty sections - that way you'll avoid breakages.

Unpacking

- Take all furniture and boxes straight to the rooms in which they belong - this is easy if you labelled all of the boxes.
- Once unloaded, unpack one room at a time, tidying as you go. This will save you loads of time and mess.

Remember:

Decide in advance what order to unpack in.

Then do one room at a time until you are finished.