

Overseas Moving Checklist

It can be pretty daunting moving to a different country, but with an experienced removals team (that's us!) and good planning to guide you through the process, it'll be a breeze.

Here are some of the most important things to consider if you are thinking of moving abroad. These are intended as a guideline, but of course country-specific information will vary.

Initial tasks

Start these tasks around two years to 18 months before you wish to move:

- **Research and visit the area you are planning to move to.** Find out as much information as possible about your new home by checking out local schools, recreational facilities, job prospects, shopping outlets, crime rate statistics and any other information that will be useful to you. Our [guides](#) will help with that!
- **Consider housing options.** Many people choose to rent for 6 months to a year before buying a house in a new country. This gives you time to settle in and find the perfect house. Consider and compare the housing options available as early as possible.
- **Create a financial plan.** Moving to a new country will incur a lot of expense so it is wise to carefully plan and budget your finances.
- **Start your visa application (if applicable).** Visa applications can be complicated and time consuming so it is best to begin this process as soon as possible. You need to know which type of visa you will qualify for and if you will need any supporting information, such as a guarantor, or additional savings.
- **Put your house on the market.** With the UK housing market as it currently stands, it can take a while for house sales to go through. If you need to sell your house before you move, look into this as early as possible and discuss with your estate agent the approximate amount of time it will take to achieve a successful sale.

12 to 6 Months Before

- **Begin the job hunt.** Finding the right job could take some time so allow yourself around a year of searching and applying for jobs near your chosen destination. There are many websites dedicated to helping those find a job, including advice on sponsorship and other requirements, depending on where you are moving.
- **Research schools.** If you are moving with children, you will want to conduct some research to find the best school in the local area. Start by searching the internet and making some enquiries once you have found some schools of interest.

- **Inform children's current schools.** Let your child's school know in advance that they will be leaving and provide as much information as possible. It will also be useful to send them the contact details of your child's new school once you have found it.
- **Go for your medical examinations and apply for police checks for your visa application.**
- **Request credit references from your bank and apply for a bank account.**
- **Get quotes from removals companies for moving your belongings abroad.**
- **Look into the requirements for moving your pet.** Make sure they are up to date on all vaccination and research the cost of moving them abroad. Your pet may also have to stay in quarantine for a period of time once they reach your new home.
- **Book your flights.**
- **Hand in your notice to your current employer.** Giving as much notice as possible about your move will be helpful to your employer and they may be able to be more flexible around any time off you may need to take when organising your move.

1 Month Before

- **Sell your car.** Instead of shipping abroad, it's usually easier to sell your car in the UK and purchase a new one once you arrive in the country.
- **Finish packing.** Check nothing is being left behind and if you have arranged for any good to be shipped over once you have settled in double check these arrangements.
- **Cancel payments and subscriptions.** Cancel your car insurance, and any other payments. Also, if you have any on-going subscriptions to newspapers or magazines remember to cancel these.
- **Arrange transport to the airport.**
- **Change your money into the correct currency.** We're partnered with Currencies Direct who can assist. [See the currency converter.](#)
- **Pack your hand luggage.** Check that you have all the important documents needed for your flight and entry into the country.
- **Book your initial accommodation.** Whether it's a B&B, hotel or rental property you will need somewhere to set up camp whilst you decide on more permanent living arrangements.
- **Hire a car.** Hire a car for your first weeks to give you the freedom and flexibility you will need.
- **Give a forwarding address to all your contacts and arrange a redirect for your post.** Be sure to include your bank, the passport office, DVLA and any other important organisations.

- **Cancel running services and direct debits.** Such as your phone and internet packages, TV licence and Council Tax.
- **Transfer your money into your new bank account.** You will need to arrange this with a foreign exchange specialist- be aware there may be a charge for this.