



Easy Tips To Prepare For Your Move

Not being prepared can increase moving day stress and costs. So here are some easy tips to help your move go as smoothly as possible.

1. Book Your Removal Team Early

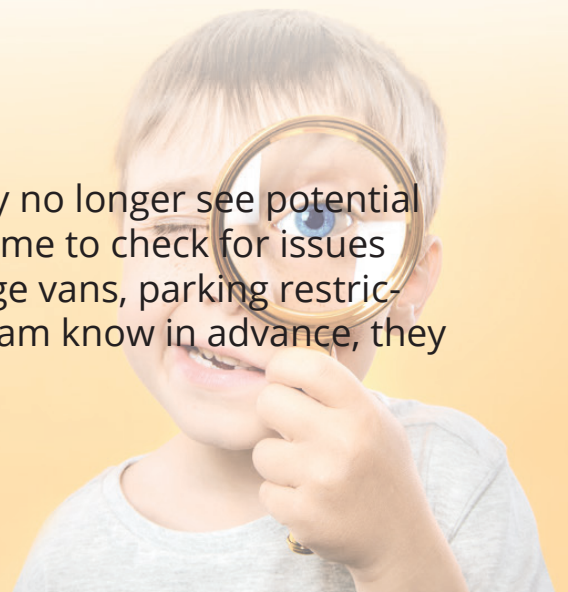
It's best to book as early as possible. Certain months, dates, days of the week are more popular for moving, the closer you get to your moving day, the more crews are likely to be booked already. Some companies will accept a small deposit to put you on their preferential list to help secure your dates, you can often amend your dates later if things change.

2. Read The Terms & Conditions

We're all guilty of clicking the 'Yes' box when we haven't actually read the Ts and Cs. Make sure you check the terms of your removal contract. It might require you to take care of certain things in advance, such as unplugging electricals, covering floors, removing light fittings. Many of these things can be requested in advance (if you want your team to remove curtains for example), but if you sign the terms and don't make provisions you could incur extra charges so beware.

3. Check For Access Issues

You're used to driving up to your home and possibly no longer see potential snags. Do a quick recce of your existing and new home to check for issues (tight bends, low hanging trees that will hamper large vans, parking restrictions). No problem is insurmountable and if your team know in advance, they can plan ahead to mitigate any hold-ups.



4. Declutter

Most of us have that pile/room of unwanted or unloved items that we keep promising to sort out. Moving home is definitely the time to do it. You don't want to be paying to take 'junk' with you only to have to find somewhere else to store it or have it cluttering up your new home.

5. Protect Your Carpets

At Armishaws our crews carry carpet protectors but these may not cover against everything if your delivery access is muddy and you have new carpets. If there are carpets or floors you're particularly worried about, prepare them before your team arrive with extra floor covering and protection. If a fitted carpet is to be moved, it will need to be prepared in advance by removing all the fixing strips and lifting the edges away from the gripper rods.

6. Check Those Droopy Drawers

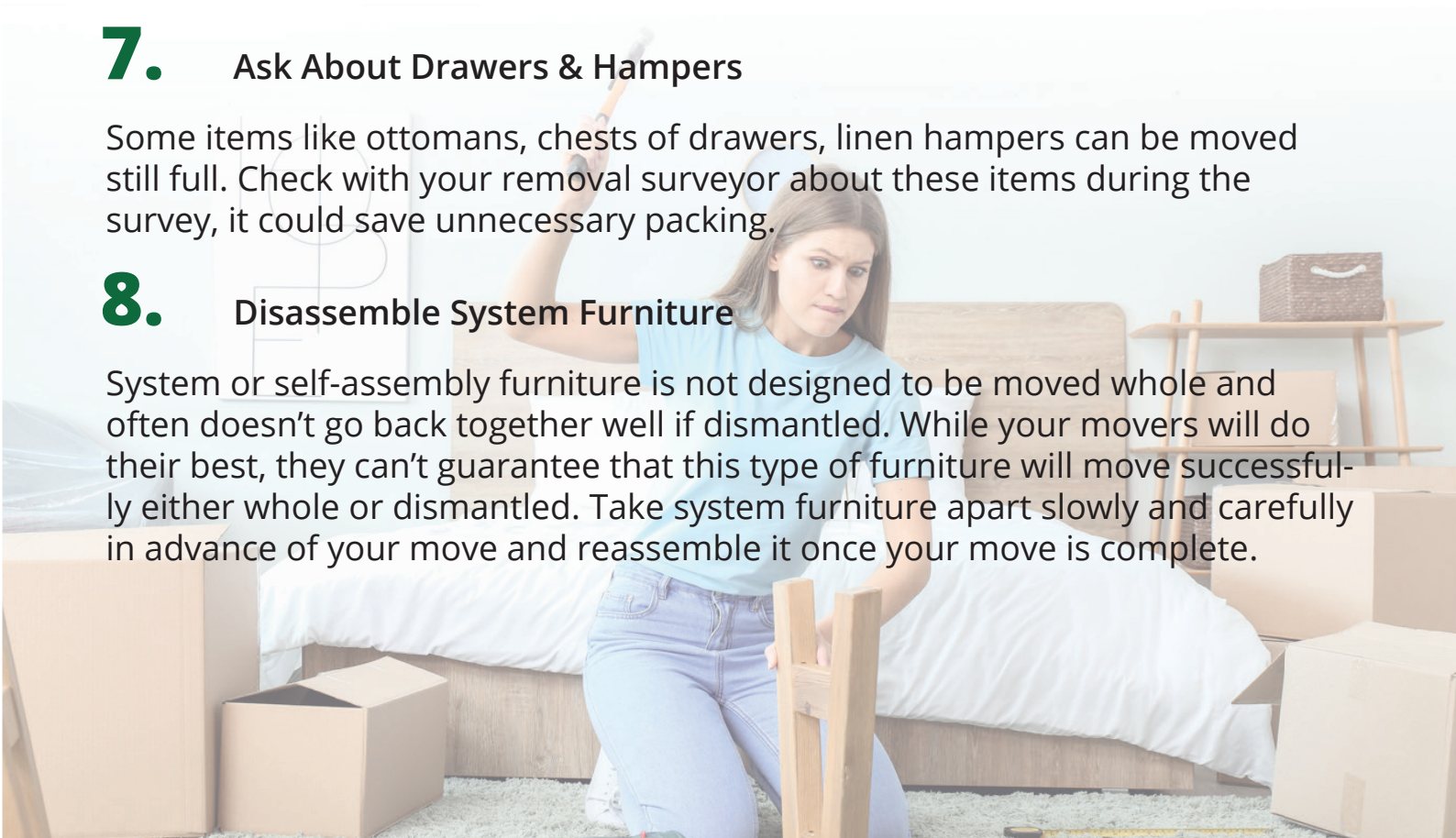
If you have any furniture you know is in a bad state, then get any repairs done before it's picked up, carried, moved. It might not make the journey, so it's better to do repairs before it goes through the stress of moving house that could exacerbate any damage or structural weakness.

7. Ask About Drawers & Hampers

Some items like ottomans, chests of drawers, linen hampers can be moved still full. Check with your removal surveyor about these items during the survey, it could save unnecessary packing.

8. Disassemble System Furniture

System or self-assembly furniture is not designed to be moved whole and often doesn't go back together well if dismantled. While your movers will do their best, they can't guarantee that this type of furniture will move successfully either whole or dismantled. Take system furniture apart slowly and carefully in advance of your move and reassemble it once your move is complete.



9. Disconnect Electrical Equipment

Make arrangements to disconnect gas and electric cookers, light fittings, gas fires, washing machines and dishwashers in advance calling in a professional if required. Curtains, shelves and anything fixed to the walls should also be taken down ready to move. Yes, your removal team can do it, but this will add time to the move.

10. Check & Clear Loft Spaces

Most removal companies are not insured to work in lofts unless they're boarded and lit, with safe, fixed access. If your loft is not boarded or poorly lit, you will need to move those items in advance. The last thing your crew want is to not do the best job for you but they're simply not allowed to access some spaces (due to prohibitive insurance demands, rather than the staff themselves being unwilling).

11. Ensure Everything Outdoors Is Ready To Go

Items in the garden, shed, greenhouse or garage should be prepared in advance. Plants should either be potted or their roots contained in a plastic bin liner. Garden tools should be tied in bundles, and swings, climbing frames, furniture, etc, dismantled. Contents of sheds and garages should be boxed and items such as paving slabs cleaned and stacked.

12. Supervise Your Crew As They're Loading

You or a trusted lieutenant should be present when the crew arrive to tell them what's to be moved and to point out anything to be left. When the crew finish loading, check to ensure nothing is left behind.

13. Make Plans For Valuables

Most removal companies won't pack and move jewellery, money, firearms or stamp collections as these can't be insured so you'll need to make alternative arrangements (your removals company/surveyor will be able to give you advice).



14. Don't Forget To Eat!

"Oh, we'll get something on the day..." but sometimes the day doesn't go smoothly. Before you know it, it's six o'clock and the only sustenance you've had all day is a Mr Whippy from a luckily passing ice cream van. Make sure you prepare/purchase food and water in advance, it's likely to be a busy day and thirsty work!

15. Get Insurance Cover

It's essential your goods are adequately protected throughout your removal and the total value of your belongings should be specified on the acceptance form. We also advise getting your own insurance cover for your move.

16. Pets & Kids

Smaller feet (whether that's two or four legs) can occasionally get in the way or find the process stressful. If you think your pets or children might be disturbed/bored/underfoot, arrange for them to go to a friend/relative/kennels for the day (we're referring to your pets, children should *not* be put in kennels... no matter how tempting!).

17. Meter Readings

Take meter readings and photos of the meters when you leave your new home and arrive at your new home to ensure against any discrepancies.

18. Book A Shopping Delivery

When you do get to your new home, the last thing you want to worry about is 'the big shop'. Before your move do a food/essentials shop online and arrange for it to be delivered to your new address the day after your move. You'll have the fridge full, toilet rolls in place, cleaning products to hand and with everyone clean, fed and watered, a generally happy house. Annnnnnd breathe!

P.S. Don't forget to get the kids from the kennels!

