

Keep the cost of moving house down

Tips on how to move house on a budget.

Whether you're selling a house or buying one, Hatched helps you save money throughout the process with low, fixed fees. But even after you've exchanged keys and contracts, we want to help you carry on saving on the cost of physically moving. Here are our tips on how to save more of your money on moving day.

1. Budget

The first thing to do when working out how to save on moving costs is to work out a plan on how much you expect to spend. Start by making a list of everything you need to organise, rent or buy and then you can start comparing the costs. Here's a list of some moving essentials to get you started:

- Removals or van hire
- Boxes
- Tape
- Bubble wrap or newspaper
- Hand truck or trolley
- Labels or a Sharpie

That's not everything, though. There are other expense which we'll get into, such as the cost of switching your utilities, bills and registering important documents at the new address.

2. Declutter

The more things you have, the more it costs to move it all to the new house. If you have to do multiple trips you'll need to hire a van for longer or pay a removals company extra. And considering most people move house to have more room, why fill it with all the same clutter?

Go through all your things and try and get rid of as much as possible. If it's not being used now, will it be used in the new house either? Be ruthless!

You can donate a lot of clothes and possessions to charity shops or you could even sell them on sites like eBay, Gumtree and Facebook to help fund the cost of moving.

Bulkier things like furniture and appliances can be advertised on sites like Gumtree, Freecycle and Freecycle for someone local to take them off your hands.

3. Sort the utilities and bills early

When you move house, chances are you'll spend a few days or weeks without an internet connection or landline. 0845 numbers are expensive, so it makes sense to start the process of switching bills to the new address early.

Let your gas and electricity providers know the date you're moving and then send final meter readings on the day you move. Start shopping around for the best deals on utilities before you move in so that you're ready to switch as soon you're in without clocking up bills on the current tariffs. The same goes for your internet and phone line provider – The less time without Netflix, the better!

Council tax will only get backdated to your moving date so it's best to get that switched over sooner rather than later, too.

When it comes to other bills and correspondence you can tell Royal Mail to forward your post to the new address, but it costs over £30 for each person. A much cheaper way of making sure you get mail is to update your contact details with everyone you can think of, and leave a few large envelopes and stamps at your old address with a friendly note for the new owners to forward anything you've missed for the first few months. If you're not moving too far, you could also leave your phone number and pick up your mail directly.

You'll need to tell TV Licencing that you're moving and to switch the address or buy a new licence. It's an easy thing for you to forget, but they won't!

4. Time your move for the best removals deal.

Much like hotels and flights – The later you leave it to book a removals company or van hire, the more expensive it can be. Plus if you book early, it's less likely the hire company won't have right size van available. Try to book at least a fortnight in advance, but ideally over a month before the move.

Did you know it can be cheaper to move in the week than at the weekend? Lots of removals and rental companies have weekday rates and weekend rates – everyone wants to move on a Saturday, so if you can take a day off to do it in the week, you can potentially save a bit more.

While we're on the van hire subject, make sure to check how long you're hiring it for. Most places hire by the day, but with some you can hire it for a half day or even by the hour. In that case – and if you're organised enough – It might be cheaper to hire a larger van and move everything in one go rather than making lots of trips.

Don't forget to check if they offer any discounts you may be eligible for, such as students, armed forces, NHS or emergency service workers.

5. Moving boxes.

Most shops recycle their own packaging straight away, so gone are the days when you could go to the nearest supermarket and get lots of cardboard boxes for free. Chances are your removals or van hire company sells them, but moving boxes can be found cheaper if you shop around.

Places like [Argos](#), [Wilko](#) and of course [Amazon](#) all sell home moving packs, but don't forget to check online communities and your friends and family for people who have also moved recently and have boxes to give away or sell.

6. Get help

The easiest way to move house is to hire a removals company to handle everything from packing all the way to delivering your possessions to the new address. But it's not cheap!

A much more inexpensive way to move house is to hire your own van and to rope in friends and family to help with the move. You could have people at both properties loading and unloading to help get the move done and the van returned quicker. If you have children, you might just want to ask someone to mind them while you get the move done.

7. Be organised

One of the most effective things you can do to keep the cost of moving down is to be prepared and have everything ready when the removals company knocks or you collect the van from the hire company. If you're using a removals company remember they're on the clock, so have everything ready for them. The same goes for van hire – An empty van parked up while you're still packing boxes on the morning of the move is just wasted money. Try to have everything packed, and appliances disconnected and ready to go by the evening before the big move. It's easier on your stress levels, it's easier on the patience of people you've persuaded to help, and therefore there's less chance of things going wrong.

TASK: Cost of moving blog
MEDIUM: Web
DEADLINE: 04/07/18

8. Moving out of a rented property? Get your deposit back!

If you've been renting your current property don't forget your obligations to the landlord before moving. If you want to see any of your deposit again (which will definitely come in handy covering moving costs)

9. Freezer Tapas

10. Food shop delivery

11. Tack 1st month finances