

Moving Abroad Checklist

Your step-by-step plan for moving from the UK to Europe, from MoveDay Removals

3 months before

- ☐ Check you have the right to live in your new country (visa or residence permit). UK nationals can only stay up to 90 days in any 180 in the Schengen area without one.
- ☐ Check your passport: for Schengen countries it must be less than 10 years old on the day you enter and valid for at least 3 months after the day you plan to leave.
- ☐ Get removal quotes and book your date early, especially in summer and at month end.
- ☐ Decide what to take, sell, donate or store. Less volume means a lower price.
- ☐ Give notice on your rental, or agree the sale and completion date of your home.
- ☐ Research schools, healthcare and areas to live in your new city.

6 to 8 weeks before

- ☐ Start a room-by-room inventory with rough values. You will need it for customs.
- ☐ Ask about duty-free import of your belongings (transfer of residence relief) and what proof you need.
- ☐ Check what you can't take: food, plants, alcohol and tobacco limits, flammables, weapons. See our guide on movedayremovals.com.
- ☐ Pets: book a vet. An EU or Northern Ireland trip needs a microchip, a rabies vaccination at least 21 days before travel and an animal health certificate issued within 10 days of travel.
- ☐ Check how long you can drive on your UK licence and when you must exchange it.
- ☐ Arrange health cover for your new country, and check if you qualify for an S1 form (for example UK State Pension).

2 to 4 weeks before

- ☐ Tell HMRC you are leaving the UK (form P85) and tell your pension and benefit providers.
- ☐ Cancel or move utilities, broadband, TV licence and subscriptions. Book final meter readings.
- ☐ Tell your bank, GP, dentist, insurers, the DVLA and the electoral register. You can register as an overseas voter.
- ☐ Set up Royal Mail redirection and update your address with family and important contacts.
- ☐ Collect copies of key records: medical, dental, school, vaccination and vehicle documents.
- ☐ Start packing things you don't use every day. Label every box with room and contents.

Moving week

- ☐ Pack a 'first night' bag: documents, medicines, chargers, clothes, kettle, bedding.
- ☐ Keep passports, visas, the inventory and customs papers with you, never in the lorry.
- ☐ Defrost and dry the fridge and freezer 24 to 48 hours before collection.
- ☐ Use up food and drink, and dispose of paint, gas bottles and other hazardous items.
- ☐ Confirm parking for the lorry at both ends and give the crew a contact number.

After you arrive

- ☐ Register your address with the local authority and apply for your residence card if needed.
- ☐ Open a local bank account and set up utilities and internet.
- ☐ Register with healthcare and a doctor, and enrol children in school.
- ☐ Check every box against the inventory and report any problem within the agreed time.

Moving to Europe? We can help.

MoveDay Removals moves homes and businesses across the UK and Europe, with full and part loads, and handles the customs paperwork for you. Customs barcodes from £130.

Free quote: <https://movedayremovals.com>

Phone: 07378 626882

Email: office@movedayremovals.co.uk

General guidance, correct as of October 2026. Rules change and differ by country, so always check GOV.UK and the authorities of your new country before you move.