

# PROPERTY NEWS

## SPRING GARDEN FLOWERS

PLAN THE COLOURS OF YOUR GARDEN FOR THE UPCOMING SEASON

**EUROPEAN CITIES**  
EXPLORE THE BEAUTIFUL  
CITIES OF EUROPE

**GARDEN SHADE**  
SUNLIGHT IN THE  
GARDEN NEEDS SHADE

**BEST TV SHOWS**  
NEWEST TV SHOWS TO  
WATCH DURING APRIL

**GRAND NATIONAL**  
AINTREE PREPARES FOR THE  
YEARLY GRAND NATIONAL

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## WELCOME TO THE LATEST EDITION!

So, we are now in spring after our typically indulgent Easter break, the clocks have just sprung forward, and we're now enjoying longer, warmer and sunnier days. So, let's get ready to shine!

Speaking of sunshine, why not enjoy these brighter days travelling to a beautiful European city? On pages 4&5 we look at some of the best cities in Europe to consider this month. The sunshine will also help your garden, as we look at April gardening tips and a guide to awnings and shade sails on pages 6&7 respectively.

Meanwhile, on pages 2&3 we look at all the main property market aspects you should bare in mind considering the gravitas of the month of April.

April is also the month for rhubarb (random, I know, but delicious!), so on pages 12&13 we look at unique recipes for a three-course dinner that celebrate this wonderfully unique vegetable. To burn this off, why not participate in some fitness activities with the kids over the Easter break? We look at some ideas on pages 8&9.

Finally, entertainment! On pages 10&11 we discuss all things TV and film for this month, while on pages 14&15 we look ahead to the upcoming sporting events of the golf Masters and the Grand National.

So, grab yourself a hot chocolate and one last naughty easter egg, and enjoy this month's magazine.

**Daniel Evans**  
Editor

# PROPERTY MARKET POINTERS FOR APRIL

April is a big month for the property market because of a number of things that affect purchasing, selling, and the dynamics of the market as a whole

It's critical to comprehend the significance of April in the property market, regardless of whether you're a homeowner, prospective buyer, or property professional. April is a significant month in the property market for the following reasons:

### SPRING RENEWAL

In the Northern Hemisphere, April heralds the start of spring, which brings with it longer days and higher temperatures. A resurgence of interest in property is frequently linked to this seasonal shift. The better weather encourages people to examine properties more, and when gardens are in blossom and houses look their best, homeowners are more likely to do so.

### CURB APPEAL

As homeowners emerge from the winter, they frequently turn their attention to improving their homes' curb appeal. During this time, painting, landscaping, and regular upkeep are typical tasks. The more appealing and competitive market that results from better home aesthetics increases demand and interest.

### TAX CONSIDERATIONS

In many regions, April is a big month in the property market because of tax-related factors. To take advantage of potential tax benefits, including as deductions on mortgage interest or property taxes, homebuyers might be incentivized to complete deals before the end of the fiscal year. Additionally, sellers could carefully schedule their listings to coincide with tax-related advantages.



## SCHOOL CALENDAR

When preparing to move, families with children in school frequently take the academic calendar into account. Families can look into housing choices in April so they can move before the end of the school year. Since the kids can begin the next school year at their new location, this guarantees a more seamless transfer for them.

## FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYER INTEREST

First-time homeowners seem to be drawn to the spring, especially April. The desire to move before summer, favourable weather, and potential tax benefits that are especially alluring to those entering the property market may be the reasons why these buyers—who are frequently young professionals or families—may be more active in the market at this time of year.

## INVENTORY INCREASE

Housing inventory is known to increase in April. There is a greater selection for prospective purchasers during this season because many sellers decide to list their houses. An increasingly competitive market that enables purchasers to examine options and bargain for favourable conditions may result from the increased supply.

## HISTORICAL MARKET TRENDS

Historical market trends over the years have demonstrated that April is a busy month for property transactions. Analysts and property professionals frequently see an increase in activity at this time. Both buyers and sellers may be influenced by this past trend, which would make it more urgent to enter the market at this favourable moment.

## MORTGAGE RATE CONSIDERATIONS

Mortgage rates are subject to annual fluctuations, and favourable conditions for purchasers may be present in April. Since borrowing costs are reduced, low interest rates may encourage potential buyers to enter the market. Buyers may be more active in April to acquire favourable financing terms because they are aware of the possible impact of fluctuating mortgage rates.

## ECONOMIC CONFIDENCE

The property market is significantly influenced by economic variables. There's always a feeling of optimism and a boost in consumer confidence as spring approaches. A strong stock market and increased employment are two positive economic indicators that might sway consumers' judgments about major purchases, including property investments.

## UPCOMING SUMMER DEMAND

April is the month that comes before summer, when property market activity usually picks up. April is when buyers can start transactions if they want to move into their new homes before summer vacation or the start of the new school year. In response, sellers can purposefully list their homes to draw in these eager purchasers.

In the property market, April is significant because of a number of interrelated elements, including seasonal variations, tax implications, and past market patterns. A thriving property market is a result of favourable weather, higher inventory, tax breaks, and a general feeling of confidence. Knowing the ins and outs of the April property market will enable you to take advantage of the chances that arise, whether your goal is to purchase, sell, or invest.

Mortgage rates are subject to annual fluctuations, and favourable conditions for purchasers may be present in April.



# EXPLORING EUROPEAN CITIES



Lisbon, in southern Europe, offers a fascinating fusion of culture, history, and seaside appeal.

**T**raveling around European cities in April is a great idea because the continent comes alive in the spring, with longer days, blossoming flowers, and milder temperatures.

Whether you're looking for historical landmarks, exciting nightlife, or cultural encounters, Europe has an abundance of choices for a memorable April city break.

Paris, the City of Light, is a popular destination for April city breaks.

Famous sites like the Louvre Museum and the Eiffel Tower entice tourists as the winter cold melts. Take a leisurely stroll beside the Seine, have a picnic in the Luxembourg Gardens, or discover the quaint neighbourhoods of Montmartre.

Paris comes to life in April when the city emerges from its winter hibernation, providing the ideal atmosphere for indulging in delectable French fare.

Rome is the perfect place to go if you're looking for a blend of modern and historical elements. April in the Italian capital is a great month to visit historic sites like the Roman Forum and Colosseum because of the beautiful weather. Don't pass up the opportunity to wish upon the Trevi Fountain by tossing in a penny. Cherry blossoms bloom in springtime in Rome, transforming parks like Villa Borghese

into charming settings.

Barcelona is a great choice for an April city holiday because of its distinctive architecture and lively culture. Discover Antoni Gaudí's bizarre creations, such as the well-known Sagrada Família and Park Güell. Enjoy tapas at neighbourhood markets, take a leisurely stroll down La Rambla, and relax on the city's beaches with a refreshing Mediterranean wind. The city comes alive with festivals and festivities honouring Catalan customs when spring arrives.

Prague, which is renowned for its enchanted atmosphere, is especially charming in April. The city's historic buildings, such as Prague Castle and Charles Bridge, look even more magnificent against the backdrop of blossoming trees when the weather is moderate. Discover the quaint Old Town Square, pay a visit to the Astronomical Clock, and indulge in regional specialties in quaint eateries.

Consider taking a city holiday in Stockholm to get a taste of the Nordic region. The Swedish capital experiences a change from winter to spring in April. Take a boat tour of the city's archipelago, stroll through the cobblestone alleyways of Gamla Stan (Old Town), and visit the Vasa Museum to view a superbly maintained 17th-century ship. Stockholm's parks and waterfronts become enticing spots to unwind and enjoy the natural beauty as the days grow longer.

Lisbon, in southern Europe, offers a fascinating fusion of culture, history, and seaside appeal. April has nice weather, which is ideal for touring old neighbourhoods like Alfama and Bairro



European cities are among the most charming in the world because they are old and only the most beautiful buildings have been preserved

Alto. Enjoy the city's hills on a tram ride, stop by São Jorge Castle for sweeping views, and visit neighbourhood bakeries to sample traditional delicacies like Pastéis de Nata.

Without including Amsterdam, no discussion on European city breaks is complete. The Dutch capital, well-known for its charming canals and ancient buildings, is particularly stunning in April when the tulips bloom. Take a canal boat to see the city from a different angle, tour the Anne Frank House, and visit the Keukenhof Gardens to see a breathtaking display of vibrant flowers.

Edinburgh offers a wonderful combination of vibrant springtime scenery and exciting cultural events in April. Historic sites like Edinburgh Castle and the Royal Mile come to life against the backdrop of blooming gardens as the city emerges from the grip of winter. The Edinburgh International Science Festival takes place in April, which gives the trip an interesting and instructive twist. The fewer tourists make the city's rich history more intimate to explore, and the growing greenery in the parks and gardens to the allure. April is a special time to visit Edinburgh if you're looking for a gorgeous, culturally rich vacation.

Clare, Ireland, is a fantastic place to travel in April because of its breathtaking scenery and diverse culture. The Cliffs of Moher come alive in the spring, when bright wildflowers bloom and the craggy shoreline makes for a picturesque setting. A tapestry of vibrant plants brings the unusual limestone terrain known as the Burren to life. April also brings local celebrations and traditional music festivals that highlight Ireland's rich cultural legacy. The pleasant



exploration of ancient locations like Bunratty Castle and the mediaeval town of Ennis is made possible by the improved weather. April in Clare is the ideal combination of Irish charm and natural beauty.

April is a great month to start a European city break. You will undoubtedly make priceless memories in these European treasures, whether you decide to visit the charming streets of Paris, the historic wonders of Rome, the artistic flair of Barcelona, the fairytale charm of Prague, the Nordic beauty of Stockholm, the coastal allure of Lisbon, or the tulip-filled landscapes of Amsterdam.



Ireland is a fantastic place to travel in April because of its breathtaking scenery and diverse culture





# MADE FOR THE SHADE

Is strong sunlight stopping you from enjoying your patio?

There are many advantages to having a south or west-facing garden. But at the height of summer, homeowners might just be forgiven for wanting a little respite from the piercing glare of the sun.

And that's where awnings or shade sails come into their own. Attached to the wall, patio awnings are fast becoming a best-selling accessory for many households who find dazzling sunlight more of an irritant than a benefit. Not only are they an instant upgrade to your outdoor space, there are also benefits indoors where a good quality awning can prevent bright light from fading furnishings and carpets.

## WHAT IS AN AWNING?

Patio awnings can either be temporary or permanent fixtures built over patios, decked terraces or porches. Typically, they stretch over the required area, and extend to provide shelter from the elements.

Made from waterproof fabric – such as vinyl, polyester or acrylic – and in a variety of designs, they can either be permanent fixtures or retractable, with the latter proving increasingly popular for those with smaller, courtyard-style gardens. A scalloped edge then becomes an attractive feature when the awning is not in use.

However, it may be beneficial to consider more functional and rigid structures. For instance, if

they are to throw partial shade through French or bifold doors in a shutter-like way, there are metal awnings which in fact incorporate solar panels.

Alternatively, pale slatted wood on top of a pergola can also have the desired effect.

## SETTING SAIL

Shade sails may seem relative newcomers to the garden accessory scene, but have been around since the ancient Egyptians sowed large pieces of fabric together to escape the searing heat. The idea was then developed by the Greeks and Romans, who used large canvas sails to create a more comfortable environment for the spectators in the Colosseum.

However, they didn't really resurface again until the 1990s when they became fashionable in South Africa and Australia, with Europe generally seen as an emerging market as the average garden tends to be smaller.

The advantage they have over standard awnings is that they provide a more targeted area of shade, which is particularly handy for those who have created seating areas away from the main house, such as patios at the end of the garden. In fact, all you need is room for several secure anchor points.

In the past, there was a certain amount of UV degradation, but modern sails tend to be a knitted fabric, have UV inhibitors and come with multi-year warranties.





# FROM SEED TO SPECTACULAR COLOUR

Plan your garden's summer colour scheme... but don't plant out just yet

**A**pril is rightly seen as the cruellest month for gardeners. While it is tempting to think of it as the gateway to spring and warmer weather, Jack Frost can quite often knock plans for six with a couple of short, sharp sub-zero blasts.

So, it may be prudent to keep your ambitions for colour-packed borders on hold until later in the month. That way, the icy fingers of winter may finally have loosened their grip and night-time temperatures may bring a hint of the balmy evenings to come.

Experienced gardeners will probably have given their seeds a head start by sowing them indoors and leaving them to sprout on a bright, warm windowsill or in the conservatory. However, hardy annual seeds can be planted out on a fertile bed from the middle of the month, while half-hardy varieties should be left under cover until the end of April or after the early May bank holiday.

Most perennials can go outside - unless you are in a cooler part of the UK or have an exposed garden - to kickstart the mission to create vibrant and enviable borders.

## BUT WHAT TO PLANT?

**Ranunculus**, or Persian buttercups, are renowned for providing bright pops of colour. Their bright multi-layered flowers come in a wide range of eye-pleasing shades, and they grow from claw-shaped bulbs to produce blooms on a sturdy stem that add substance to cut-flower arrangements.

For best results, soak in water for a couple of hours before planting in a sunny and fertile, well-drained position. They are also suited to planters if your soil is heavy.

**Nicotiana**, or the tobacco plant, pairs daytime beauty with an evening scent and are readily available as plug plants which can be bought from garden centres. And although they can be planted out in April, it is best to keep them undercover until the frosts are a thing of the past. They range from plummy shades to lime green and work well in sunny or lightly-shaded spots.

**Monarda** - better known as bergamot or bee balm - is a great pollinator and will introduce lots of colour. It is a sun-loving perennial and thrives in soil that retains moisture - to such an extent that a single plant can clump and will need to be divided.

Cheery **sunflowers** are ideal for introducing children to gardening, but if you don't have the space for the varieties that reach abnormal heights, there are a wide variety of smaller, multi-flowered varieties available with colours ranging from bronze, orange and even red. They should be germinated under cover before planting out and staked to promote strong growth.

**Geums** provide long-lasting colour and charm, growing to around 50cm so are ideal for the front and middle of borders, while freesias are a delightful option with their spicy sweet scent making them ideal for the garden or vase.





# FAMILY FITNESS ACTIVITY IDEAS

Holiday exercise may be more crucial than any other time of year since it can help you manage stress, avoid gaining weight, and keep up your healthy routines

**E**aster vacation is a great time for families to get active and participate in fitness activities together, encouraging a healthy lifestyle for both parents and children. These pursuits foster relationships and the making of enduring memories in addition to improving physical health. It's crucial that youngsters, in particular, keep active throughout Easter since regular exercise will enhance their welfare, sustain their current level of fitness, and promote better sleep at night. Make the most of the extra time by letting the kids engage in sports, dance, rock climbing, swimming, and cycling that they wouldn't normally get to do during the week. Consider these fun fitness exercises to do over the Easter break:

## EASTER EGG HUNT WITH A TWIST

Make the customary Easter egg search into a physical challenge. Include physical challenges or activities at each location rather than just looking for eggs. Do ten jumping jacks, for example, before proceeding to the following clue. This enhances the enjoyment and thrill of the hunt by including a physical component.

## NATURE HIKE OR SCAVENGER HUNT

Enjoy the springtime weather by going on a scavenger hunt or taking a nature stroll. Make a list of things that kids can find in the park or along the trail to encourage them to explore and keep active. It might be anything from identifying distinct leaf types to identifying certain birds.

## FAMILY BIKE RIDE

Take the family on a bike trip after giving the bikes some TLC. Pick a picturesque path, like a leisurely ride around the neighbourhood or a nearby trail. In addition to being excellent for cardiovascular health, this low-impact exercise gives the family a chance to spend quality time outside.

## OBSTACLE COURSE AT HOME

Using common home materials, create a miniature obstacle course in your living room or outdoors. Create stations where kids can do things like crawl under tables, leap over cushions, and balance on a specified line. By letting the students choose their own path, you may encourage creativity and cooperation.



Water exercises keep everyone hydrated and provide resistance for a full-body workout.



### FAMILY SPORTS DAY

Plan a small-scale sporting event featuring a range of age-appropriate games. Incorporate traditional games such as tug-of-war, sack races, and three-legged races. Continue switching up the activities so that everyone has an opportunity to take part and enjoy themselves.

### GARDENING AS A FAMILY

Not only is gardening a productive hobby, but it's also a fantastic physical exercise. Get the youngsters involved in planting herbs, vegetables, or flowers. In addition to being good physical exercises, digging, weeding, and transporting soil-filled bags teach important lessons about responsibility and the natural world.

### FAMILY DANCE PARTY

Have a family dance party in the living room or backyard by turning up the music. Dancing is a fantastic way to increase coordination, burn calories, and have fun with others. Invite everyone to show off their dance skills and have fun.

### DIY BOOT CAMP

Create a backyard boot camp that includes a range of workouts for varying degrees of fitness. Incorporate exercises like push-ups, squats, lunges, and jumping jacks. Make a circuit and go through the exercises in a round fashion so that each person gets a full body workout.

### YOGA AND MINDFULNESS SESSION

Explain to the family the advantages of mindfulness and yoga. For a family yoga session, set up a calm area in the backyard or a peaceful nook indoors. Kids may practise yoga at home with a variety of applications and online tools, which makes it a stress-relieving and beneficial pastime.

### WATER FUN

Make plans for water-based activities if the weather permits. A day at the beach, water balloon fights in the backyard, or a family dip at the neighbourhood pool may all fit this description. Water exercises keep everyone hydrated and provide resistance for a full-body workout.

### FAMILY FITNESS CHALLENGE

Make the family a pleasant exercise challenge. Establish attainable objectives for every member of the family, such as a daily step count, an exercise regimen, or a group objective like a family 5K race. Together, monitor advancements and acknowledge successes at the conclusion of the break.

### ROCK CLIMBING OR INDOOR ADVENTURE PARKS

Look at local adventure parks or indoor rock climbing. These establishments frequently provide family-friendly options of various degrees of complexity. It's an excellent opportunity to put each other through physical challenges and overcome problems as a team.

Always put safety first by making sure everyone is properly equipped and hydrated when participating in these activities. You can encourage a healthy lifestyle and make memories with your family that will last for years by adding these fitness activities into your Easter holiday.





# THE BEST MOVIE RELEASES TO CHECK OUT THIS MONTH

There are some fantastic cinema releases coming out in April, with something to suit any taste

## THE FIRST OMEN

The First Omen is an upcoming American supernatural horror film directed by Arkasha Stevenson and written by Stevenson, Tim Smith, and Keith Thomas based on a tale by Ben Jacoby. As a precursor to The Omen (1976), the film depicts an American lady sent to work in a cathedral in Rome who discovers a terrible plot to bring about the birth of an Antichrist. Its cast includes Nell Tiger Free, Tawfeek Barhom, Sônia Braga, Ralph Ineson, and Bill Nighy.

*In UK cinemas from 5th April*

## GODZILLA X KONG: THE NEW EMPIRE

Adam Wingard directs Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire, an upcoming American monster film. Legendary Pictures produced and Warner Bros. Pictures released the picture, which is a sequel to Godzilla vs. Kong (2021) and the fifth instalment in the MonsterVerse. It is also the 38th film in the Godzilla franchise, the 13th in the King Kong franchise, and the sixth Godzilla film produced entirely by an American studio. The cast includes Rebecca Hall, Brian Tyree Henry, Dan Stevens, Kaylee Hottle, Alex Ferns, and Fala Chen. Hall, Henry, and Hottle repeat their roles from the previous movie. In the film, Godzilla and Kong must band together to combat an unknown threat to the Hollow Earth and the surrounding surface.

*In UK cinemas from 12th April*

## THE MINISTRY OF UNGENTLEMANLY WARFARE

Guy Ritchie is directing and co-writing the forthcoming action spy comedy picture The Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare, which is based on Damien Lewis' 2014 book Churchill's Secret Warriors: The Explosive True Story of the Special Forces Desperadoes of WWII. The film depicts a largely romanticised version of Operation Postmaster. Founded by Winston Churchill, their irregular combat against the Nazis altered the course of the war and gave rise to contemporary black operations.

*In UK cinemas from 19th April*

COMING SOON



# THE BEST TV SHOWS TO LOOK OUT FOR THIS MONTH

Finally, April has arrived, along with a few of the newest TV series that are worth seeing this spring

## BEEF

In this comedic drama, Ali Wong and Steven Yeun's road rage incident turns into a string of pranks and attacks. Their characters had good reason to be fed up with life already. Wong is an unsatisfied suburban businessman, and Yeun portrays a building contractor with a failing company. When her sleek white SUV cuts off his faded red pickup truck, it's just too much. When the series debuted at SXSW recently, it was greeted with a flurry of accolades.

Beef premieres 6th April on Netflix internationally

## DREAMLAND

Sharon Horgan's newest television series sounds a lot like her amazing dark comedy *Bad Sisters*, minus the murderous plot. Based on Horgan's 2017 BAFTA-winning short, Morgana Robinson's *Summer*, a quartet of sisters meet in their Margate town for a television series. Lily Allen portrays the sister who unexpectedly visits her house, upsetting the interaction between Freema Agyeman and the other three residents. The storey of secrets, rivalries, and repeated pregnancies is enhanced by the multigenerational perspective provided by the women's grandmother and mother. While Horgan isn't in it, her trademark smart, acerbic, and humorous take on sibling dynamics, family, and love is going to come through in this show, which was shot in Margate with vibrant colours that leap off the screen.

Dreamland premieres 6th April on Sky Atlantic and NOW in the UK

## TRANSATLANTIC

This World War II drama is based on the incredible true storey of American Varian Fry, who was dispatched to France in the war to smuggle out notable intellectuals and artists—including Marcel Duchamp and Marc Chagall—who were being sought after by the Nazis. A large portion of the action takes place in Marseille, where Corey Stoll plays the American consul. Cory Michael Smith plays Fry, and Gillian Jacobs plays Mary Jayne Gold, the heiress who assists him and provides the money for the escapes. Inspired on Fry's adventures, Julie Orringer's excellent 2019 novel *The Flight Portfolio* adds a romantic element to heighten his real-life struggle and serves as the basis for a trilogy that looks to be full of mystery, suspense, valour, and deceit.

Transatlantic premieres 7th April on Netflix internationally





Serves 4

Prep time: 60mins



# PORK CHOPS

## WITH RHUBARB AND ANCHO CHILLI SALSA

### INGREDIENTS

4 pork chops around 250g each and at least 2.5cm thick  
2tbsp of olive oil  
2 oranges sliced  
6 sprigs of fresh thyme  
4 garlic cloves, crushed  
2 garlic cloves, unpeeled  
200g of rhubarb  
100g of tomatoes  
1 dried ancho chilli, soaked in warm water  
1 unpeeled shallot  
Salt, pepper  
Pinch of ground coriander

### TO SERVE

1tsp vegetable oil  
1 bunch spring onions  
Rock salt  
Coriander

### METHOD

Begin by marinating the pork chops. Place the meat in a non-metallic container or sandwich bag with the oil, orange slices, thyme, garlic, salt and pepper. Mix to coat the chops equally and leave in the fridge overnight or for as long as you can spare

Bring the chops out of the fridge half an hour before cooking to bring to room temperature. Pat the chops dry with kitchen paper then sprinkle with salt and stand in a heavy-bottomed griddle or frying pan (cast-iron is ideal), fat-side down (you may need to use two pans.) You can use a spoon or pair of

tongs to keep them propped up – the flesh shouldn't touch the pan as you only want to be rendering the fat. Cook slowly over a low heat until the fat is a deep amber colour (about 15–20 minutes). Drain the pan of fat periodically into a bowl

Meanwhile, preheat an oven to 180°C/gas mark 4 and make the salsa. Place half the rhubarb, the shallot, garlic and tomatoes over an open flame. This could be directly onto a gas hob, over a flaming barbecue or by using a blowtorch to blacken. Use tongs to rotate the fruit and vegetables until the skins are charred and the insides soft

Peel the blackened shallot and garlic skins and roughly chop the flesh, then place in a blender. Scrape away the blackened tomato and rhubarb skin then add these to a blender too

Remove the stalk from the soaked chilli then add to the blender. Slice the remaining raw rhubarb and add this to the blender, then blitz to a rough salsa consistency.

Once the pork chop fat has rendered right down, cook for 1 minute each side then transfer to the oven and cook for 4 minutes. Rest for 5 minutes before serving

While the pork rests, toss the spring onions with the oil and char in a hot griddle pan for 5 minutes. Sprinkle with rock salt Place the chops on a bed of spring onions and fresh coriander with the salsa on the side



## TORCHED MACKEREL WITH RHUBARB AND FENNEL

Serves 4

### INGREDIENTS

4 mackerel fillets, pin boned  
1 bunch of fresh thyme  
200ml of olive oil  
200g of rhubarb  
400ml of water  
60ml grenadine  
100g sugar  
1 fennel  
1 juiced lemon  
Sea salt

### METHOD

Make a thyme oil by submerging a bunch of thyme in the oil and store in the fridge. The flavour will increase after a few days of steeping.

For the rhubarb, place the water, grenadine and sugar into a small pan and bring to the boil. Slice the rhubarb into 5cm batons. Once the grenadine mixture comes to the boil, add the rhubarb and take the pan off the heat. Leave to cool; the rhubarb will cook in the residual heat

Once the rhubarb has cooled, prepare the fennel. Use a mandoline to very finely slice the fennel then place it in a bowl and mix with lemon juice and a generous pinch of sea salt. Leave for 10 minutes

Season the mackerel fillets and place on a cold metal tray. Put in the fridge for 6 minutes. After this time, use a blowtorch to char the skin on the fillets until it starts to blacken

To plate up, add a spoonful of the fennel and some drained rhubarb to the side. Top with the torched mackerel and finish with a drizzle of thyme oil.



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## RHUBARB, ROSEWATER AND CARDAMOM KULFI

Serves 4 to 6. Prep time: 2hrs-plus. Cooking time: 10 to 30mins

### INGREDIENTS

400g slender young rhubarb cut into chunks  
150g caster sugar  
300ml evaporated milk  
8 cardamom pods, lightly crushed  
1 to 2 tbsp rosewater  
100ml kefir  
250ml double or whipping cream  
Salt  
Chopped pistachios (optional to serve)

### METHOD

Preheat the oven to 200C/180C Fan/Gas 6. Put the rhubarb in a roasting tin, sprinkle over 2 tablespoons of the sugar and stir until completely coated. Cover with kitchen foil and roast for 15 minutes, then remove the foil and roast for a further 10. Remove from the oven and leave to cool.

Put the remaining sugar in a saucepan with the evaporated milk, cardamom pods, 1 tablespoon of rosewater and a pinch of salt. Heat gently, stirring constantly until the sugar has dissolved, then bring just up to boiling point. Remove from the heat and leave to cool for a few minutes, then stir in the kefir. Leave to cool to room temperature.

Strain the milk mixture and put in a blender with the roasted rhubarb. Blitz until smooth, then push through a sieve to make it extra smooth if you like. Chill thoroughly. Whip the cream to soft peaks then fold through the chilled rhubarb mixture. Taste and add more rosewater if necessary.

Pour into moulds and freeze. If your moulds are big enough, whisk with a fork every 30 minutes, until the mixture is too stiff to stir, then freeze until solid. (If you have an ice-cream maker you can churn them first, then pour into the moulds and freeze until solid.)

To serve, remove from the freezer and leave to stand for 10 minutes. Turn out and sprinkle with a few dried rose petals and/or chopped pistachios.



# MASTERS TOURNAMENT

The world's leading golfers have Georgia on their minds

It is widely (and wrongly) assumed that American writer and humourist Mark Twain was responsible for the disparaging quote: "Golf is a good walk spoiled". Whoever it was had clearly not encountered the Augusta National Club, home of this month's US Masters.

It is, quite probably, the most beautiful course in the world, and had the person responsible for that widely misquoted sentence undertaken a tour of Georgia's most precious piece of real estate, it would have left them slack-jawed like the rest of us.

It is the vibrancy of the azaleas that punctuate the lush shades of green around a course that makes the word 'manicured' look wholly inadequate. It is a horticultural paradise ... but its beauty is probably lost on the players who, from April 11th to the 14th, will need to tame it, or at least try to exert a little control, if they are to claim a nice \$3million-plus pay cheque and a priceless Green Jacket.

Because only St Andrews when it's blowing a hoolie over the Old Course is a match for Augusta when the pin placements are at their most fiendish. Traditionally, the Masters is the first of golf's four Majors in the calendar year – the others are the PGA Championship (May), US Open (June) and the British Open Championship (July) – and is the only one to have a permanent home. But what a home!

Most of the daunting holes are named after local shrubs: Flowering Peach (the third), Magnolia (the fifth) and so on, including the iconic Golden Bell, the often-barbaric 12th where title dreams blossom or drown in Rae's Creek. It prompted Sports Illustrated journalist Rick Reilly to write in 1990: "More Green Jackets have been lost at the 12th than at the Augusta City Dry Cleaners."

It is also the second in the notorious three-hole section known as Amen Corner, where water, bunkers and Rae's Creek wait to swallow any shot that isn't perfectly placed.

Sometimes, however, the Masters committee are a little too generous with their flag placings and the course is laid bare for the small select field of the world's leading players to record a barrage of sub-par rounds, such as in 2020 when the American Dustin Johnson shot a record 20-under par for the four rounds.

All that leaves some interesting questions for this year's tournament: Will Rory McIlroy finally improve on runners-up spot to win his first Masters and complete a career grand slam? Can Tiger Woods put his injuries aside to claim a record-equalling sixth Green Jacket? Or will Scottie Scheffler win for the second time in three years? Only time will tell.



# NATIONAL TREASURE

Memories of Red Rum linger as Aintree prepares for the Grand National



It is 50 years since Red Rum galloped his way into Grand National folklore with the second of his three wins in the Aintree showpiece. Since then, much has changed to the greatest steeplechase in the world, both on and off the track.

In fact, the only constants are the jaw-dropping numbers worldwide who tune in to the big race, the millions that are wagered on its unpredictable outcome, and the esteem in which the great 'Rummy' is held.

Red Rum was foaled in May 1965 and was an unremarkable thoroughbred until he came into the care of the unorthodox trainer-cum-car dealer Ginger McCain, who worked his new charge on Southport beach.

The extraordinary regime of sand and surf helped Red Rum win his first National in the epic race of 1973. Incredibly, he defended his crown carrying top weight in 1974 and was second in '75 and '76 before completing his unprecedented treble in '77. He was retired on the eve of the '78 race, a bombshell that became the lead item on the BBC's main evening news bulletin.

He became a British sporting icon and, on his death at the ripe old age of 30, was buried at the foot of the Aintree winning post.

Red Rum's story is unique, largely because it could never be repeated under today's safety-first conditions.

In his day, 'Rummy' would have faced more than 40 rivals – some no more than honest plodders – for the 4-mile-plus slog over 30 testing fences. This year a reduced field of 34 top-class stayers will tackle the obstacles which have also been trimmed back, although The Chair – a 5ft 2in monster with a 6ft open ditch on the take-off-side – remains the most daunting.

Following advice, the run to the first fence has also been moved closer to the start, which from this year, will be a uniform break from under the tapes rather than the problematic rolling start favoured for many years.

And it will also be off at a different time. Previously in a mid-afternoon slot, then changed in 2016 to 5.15pm in an attempt to catch a bigger TV audience, this year's National will start at 4pm, partly to reduce the long build-up but mainly to take advantage of the best ground conditions.

However, the biggest change is in the amount of prize money at stake. This year, the winner will pocket £561,300 for connections – in 1974 Red Rum's owner Noel Le Mare banked a cheque for £25,103.

London Street, Swaffham

Guide Price £500,000 to £525,000



An extremely well presented, spacious detached four bedroom house, very conveniently situated close to the town centre of Swaffham. This superb property offers two reception rooms, kitchen/dining room, conservatory, garage + parking, gas central heating and UPVC double glazing.

SWAFFHAM - 01760 721389 - [info@longsons.co.uk](mailto:info@longsons.co.uk)



Swaffham - 01760 721389

Watton - 01953 883474

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## North Pickenham Road, Swaffham

**£400,000**



Substantial, very well presented, spacious four bedroom end terrace house situated on the outskirts of Swaffham. This fantastic property enjoys far reaching views to the rear and offers large gardens, parking for numerous vehicles, modern kitchen/breakfast room, bathroom & shower room.

SWAFFHAM - 01760 721389 - [info@longsons.co.uk](mailto:info@longsons.co.uk)

## Ranworth Close, Swaffham

**£270,000**



Well presented, link-detached two bedroom bungalow situated on the edge of the popular market town of Swaffham, the property offers, shower room, garage, off-road parking, gardens, gas central heating and UPVC double glazing.

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## Nelson Crescent, Swaffham

**£299,995**



Very well presented, three bedroom link detached family home with a flexible layout and far reaching field views to the side. The property offers two reception rooms, study and utility space, modern kitchen and bathroom with the potential to further improve.

SWAFFHAM - 01760 721389 - [info@longsons.co.uk](mailto:info@longsons.co.uk)

## All Saints Way, Beachamwell

**OIEO £350,000**



Spacious, very well presented, detached three bedroom house situated in the popular village of Beachamwell. This fantastic property has much to offer and includes good size gardens, garage, parking, two reception rooms, and majority UPVC double glazing.

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### Churchill Close, Watton

Guide Price £325,000 - £350,000



Spacious, detached three bedroom house situated within easy reach of Watton town centre. The property would benefit from updating, although in very clean and good order. With huge potential the property offers, garage, parking, gas central heating and UPVC double glazing.

WATTON - 01953 883474 - [watton@longsons.co.uk](mailto:watton@longsons.co.uk)

### Dudley Close, Watton

Guide Price £300,000 - £325,000



A extremely well presented modern semi-detached three bedroom house situated on a popular development in the market town of Watton. This superb property benefits from conservatory, en-suite, utility along with garage, parking, gardens, gas central heating and UPVC double glazing.

WATTON - 01953 883474 - [watton@longsons.co.uk](mailto:watton@longsons.co.uk)



## Walnut Grove, Watton

Guide Price £300,000 - £325,000



A three bedroom bungalow with good size gardens situated on a corner plot in a popular development conveniently close to the town centre. The property requires some updating and offers plenty of potential. Benefits include garage, parking, gas central heating and UPVC double glazing.

WATTON - 01953 883474 - [watton@longsons.co.uk](mailto:watton@longsons.co.uk)

## Ashtree Road, Watton

£260,000



Immaculately presented detached chalet situated within the market town of Watton. The property benefits from 3-4 bedrooms, 1-2 reception rooms, kitchen/dining room, conservatory, enclosed well maintained rear garden, UPVC double glazing and gas central heating.

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Swaffham - 01760 721389

Watton - 01953 883474

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Mere Road, Stow Bedon

£450,000



A spacious detached four bedroom house situated on the sought after Mere Road in Stow Bedon. The property offers huge potential, two reception rooms, utility room, cloakroom with WC, bathroom, four car garage, large gardens, ample off road parking, central heating and double glazing. Available chain free!

WATTON - 01953 883474 - [watton@longsons.co.uk](mailto:watton@longsons.co.uk)



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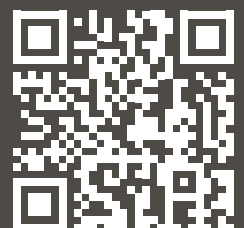
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HOW MUCH  
**IS MY**  
PROPERTY  
WORTH?





# Present your house for sale by de-cluttering...

Maximise your home's potential and create spacious rooms enticing potential buyers – simply by de-cluttering!

“ De-cluttering allows you to... maximise your space, emotionally prepare you to move, and will allow you to focus your buyers on what is important ”

If you are looking to sell your house, or have had your home on the market for a while now, then you probably want to get the maximum sale price in the quickest time. There are a few things you can't control – but the one thing that is in your control, is the look and feel of the interior and exterior.

While it's worth spending time fixing and cleaning your house before potential buyers come and view, it's also important to de-clutter. This creates spacious rooms and also allows you to decrease and organise your personal items before you move yourself. Of course it's understandable that you don't to want spend money, time and energy on a home you are about to leave, however, a lot of people are looking for a house in which they can move straight into. Maintaining your

property might even save you thousands of pounds; it could even reduce added expenses of living in your home whilst waiting for a sale. And it might even help avoid possible reductions in the asking price.

The main reason in which people move house tends to be because they lack space in their current home. They want a home that is spacious and in which they can grow into. If a potential viewer comes to your home and sees that there is lack of space, then this will turn them away.

De-cluttering allows you to remove any unnecessary items in an untidy or overcrowded place. It will help maximise your space, emotionally prepare you to move, and will allow you to focus your buyers on what is important.



So where should you start?

You need to create a great first impression and focus on the rooms themselves. You will notice that the first things you see in each room are personal items. Where possible you want to create the look of a

them into things you want to keep and things you want to get rid of. You may even find that you have collected a cupboard full of paper work. Get yourself organised! Don't just throw it all away, but file it and go through it thoroughly. This will also make it easier when you move.

De-personalising can also be a great way to de-clutter. Too many personal effects can be distracting to buyers. They want to see a house in which they can make their own memories rather than seeing yours. Again, personal items can be stored away. Remember

“ Where possible you want to create the look of a lifestyle that the potential buyers want ”

lifestyle that the potential buyer want. This usually has a 'show home' feel, rather than a 'lived in' feel. Minimising your things is the quickest way to do this: you want to ensure that potential buyers can do simple things, like, open any doors easily, ensuring that there are no obstacles.

So, what do we mean by clutter? There are two types: genuine clutter, and items that you want to keep but don't work for the sale of your property.

Genuine Clutter:  
You need to go through the space and sort out each item, categorising

You also want to focus on little things like DVDs, books and trinkets. These items may have some small value so sell them or donate them to charity. Get rid of any old shoes and coats that are lying about in your porch or hallway. You might want to hide away the coats and shoes you do currently wear. Store them in your wardrobe, while you have viewings.

Items that you want to keep but don't work for the sale of your property:  
You may want to consider putting some items in storage while you sell your home. Sometimes items are too large or even too small for some spaces and can make the room look odd. If you want to keep these particular items, then store them until you move into your new home.

that this is only a temporary way of living and hopefully it won't be for long! If you find you are keeping more things than you are throwing out, then think about whether or not it's in the right room or do you even need it now?

As previously mentioned, you can attempt to sell some of the things you have acquired over the years. Use sites like eBay, Gumtree and social networking sites to try and sell items. You may want to even hold a house sale for the remaining items that you can't sell. Failing that, why not donate to charity.

The end goal is still the same and it's important to help potential buyers envision your house as theirs. So remember, de-cluttering will make your home more spacious and entice potential buyers!

# Top Tips!



If you are throwing away paperwork, shred anything that is confidential



De-clutter before agents come and take photos of your property. This will help attract more potential viewers online and get that first good impression



Don't spend too long on certain items and don't get distracted. Keep yourself motivated and race against the clock!



Make it fun! Play some music or watch TV while you de-clutter







# Your step-by-step guide to the conveyancing process

Once a sale has been agreed and is in the hands of your solicitor, it will go through the following stages. Sometimes additional work will be needed – for example, if the property is leasehold or is yet to be registered with the Land Registry. It is also important for buyers to discuss the availability of their deposit with their solicitor early in the transaction, and we strongly recommend that you contact your solicitor regularly so that they can keep you fully up-to-date with the progress and the latest timescales.

## Seller's solicitor's steps

- Obtain a copy of the Title Deeds (or office copies if the title is registered)
- Obtain a copy of the Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) (if applicable)
- The seller(s) will return a completed Property Information Form and a Fixtures, Fittings and Contents Form to the solicitors
- Copies of the above documents, plus a draft contract – this is known as an 'Information Pack' – will be sent to the buyer's solicitor
- Answer the buyer's solicitor's additional enquiries (for example, specific questions about fixtures and fittings) and obtain copies of any planning consent documents
- Agree the contract and arrange for the sellers to sign it in readiness of the exchange (below)
- All parties agree completion dates and the contracts are exchanged

## Between exchange and completion

- Obtain redemption figures from the mortgage lender and reply to requisitions on title
- Approve the transfer and arrange for the seller(s) and buyer(s) to sign
- Receive the agent's fee account and seek the seller's consent to settle this out of completion funds

## Completion date

This is the date the ownership of the property passes from the seller to the buyer, and it follows the successful transfer of funds. It's the date that the whole process works towards.

## Upon completion

- Receive completion funds and (only when this has been completed) instruct your estate agent to release the keys to buyers. Redeem mortgage and forward the financial statement. Forward any surplus funds (unless these are being used to fund an onward purchase). Ensure all outstanding bills are paid
- Forward transfer documents and deeds to the buyer's solicitors
- Forward evidence of 'discharge of mortgage' to the buyer's solicitors

## Buyer's solicitor's steps

- Obtain the Information Pack, including a copy of the EPC (if applicable) from the sellers' solicitor and raise any additional queries
- Initiate any specialist searches (for example: a coal search). Submit local, environmental and water searches and a chancel check. This takes about 10 working days in total, and enquiries are then usually raised from the results
- Approve the contract when all enquiries are satisfactory and complete. (At this stage, a mortgage transfer deed will need to be signed and witnessed)
- Receive a mortgage offer and instructions from the lender and deal with any conditions set out by them. Make sure that life cover and buildings insurance is being arranged
- Request the deposit, report back to the buyer, and arrange for the contract to be signed. Place buildings insurance and life cover in force
- All parties agree completion dates and the contracts are exchanged

## Between exchange and completion

- Raise 'requisitions on title' and prepare the draft transfer deed
- Report on title to mortgage lender and obtain funds for completion, including Stamp Duty (if appropriate)
- Prepare accounts, obtain signature to mortgage deed and undertake final Land Registry and Land Charges searches

## Completion date

This is the date the ownership of the property passes from the seller to the buyer, and it follows the successful transfer of funds. It's the date that the whole process works towards.

## Upon Completion

- Forward to the seller's solicitors the balance of funds - it is only then that they can authorise the release of the keys. Receive from the seller's solicitors, the transfer document deeds
- Stamp the Transfer Deed, register the buyer's ownership with the Land Registry and forward the deeds to the lender or client (where appropriate)

**Contract** - The agreement that sets out the main terms that have been agreed - for example: price, address, names, etc. Two copies are drawn up, and each party signs one in readiness for the exchange of contracts.

**Deposit** - The part of the purchase price (usually 10%) which the buyer pays on exchange of contracts.

**Exchange of contracts** - The swapping of signed contracts by the solicitors (together with the buyer's deposit). After this, the contract is binding.

**Energy Performance Certificate** - This contains information on energy use, energy performance, carbon dioxide emissions, and fuel bills.

**Land Registry** - The Government department that records who owns what land, and under what conditions.

**Local Authority Search** - A list of questions that are specific to the property and intended, for example, to discover if there have been any planning applications on the property, if the road to the house is maintained by the council, etc.

**Mortgage Redemption Figure** - The amount required to repay the outstanding capital/ interest of a mortgage.

**Property information form/fixtures, fittings and contents form** - Standard forms about the property that the seller answers for their solicitor (for example: what will be left behind, details of guarantees, etc.)

**Title Deeds** - Legal documents that prove ownership of land/buildings, and the terms on which they are owned.

**Transfer of Title** - The document that passes the ownership from the seller to the buyer.

**Stamp Duty for buy to let investors and second home owners** - An additional tax, paid by the buyer purchasing an additional property that is not their main residence. It includes buy to let landlords and those buying second homes and holiday homes. The higher rates will be 3 percentage points above the current rates of duty shown below.

**Requisition on title** - An enquiry relating to the completion arrangements.

**Seller's Pack** - This comprises a Property Information Form, a Fixtures, Fittings and Contents Form, a copy of the title deeds and the draft contract.

**Stamp Duty** - Currently, the Stamp Duty threshold for residential properties is £250,000. For first-time buyers you can claim a discount and won't pay Stamp Duty up to £425,000 on the purchase price and after that you will pay only 5% between £425,001 to £625,000.

However, how much you pay is also dependent on whether you already own another property or if you're a non-UK resident.





# Moving house?

From meter readings to removal companies, there's so much to remember when moving house. Here's our checklist of what to do and when

**F**irst of all, congratulations on your new home! The excitement has probably now kicked in but moving home can also be one of the most stressful and emotionally draining things you can do. However, careful organisation and planning can help decrease the stress and anxiety of moving. This comprehensive and essential checklist will help you do just that.

## Eight weeks - Research

Ideally, you want to start packing away any non-essential items as early as possible. This includes any items stored away in the loft, garage and shed. If you are not using it, pack it. Looking into your new area is also important, try to do this around eight weeks before you move. You might need to think about transferring your children to different schools and ordering new uniforms too. At this point, ensure you are also documenting all your important information away: that includes contact details, dates, contracts and information regarding your solicitor.

## Six weeks - Removal companies or do it yourself?

Now would be the perfect time to decide on a local removal company. Or if you don't have too much to move, you may want to do it yourself. You could even look into different van hire companies. At this point you've probably started packing away some bits, but if there is anything you decide not to take, then look into selling these items or donating them to charity. This will also give you an idea on the volume of items you have to move.

## Four weeks - Notify utility companies

This would be a good time for you to notify utility companies and inform them about your move to switch over. This includes gas and electricity, council tax, internet, phone rental and TV. You should also consider changing any car insurance, tax, memberships, phone contracts and inform your bank about the move. Now's the time to also arrange a date to have your new house cleaned before you move



“ It will be worth packing a night bag each to help everyone settle in, which means you won't have to rummage through everything to find your toothbrush! ”

in, and start ordering any new furnishings for your new property. Start packing away more items, that being, out of season clothes, books, dvd's and even bulky items, like TV's that aren't used often.

#### Two weeks - Confirm all details

Confirm your move with your removal company or van hire, estate agents and schools. If possible, try to organise someone to look after your pets and children for the day of your move, as this can also be a stressful time for them too. If your removal company doesn't disassemble any furniture or sort out the un-plumbing for the washing machine, then now would be the ideal time to organise these. Remember to also cancel any local services you receive: this could be window cleaners, gardeners and newspaper deliveries. You should now also think about re-registering to vote and getting your post re-directed after your moving date. Continue packing away more furnishings, kitchen appliances and crockery that you won't be using for the next couple of weeks.

#### 24 hours - Final check and walk round

You now have only 24 hours before you move, so double check that everything is packed away and ready for transit. It will be worth packing a night bag each to help everyone settle in, which means you won't have to rummage through everything to find your toothbrush! You may want to create an inventory of your boxes and

furniture to help you keep track of what you have and to help you ensure it doesn't go missing.

#### Moving day

Today is the day! You need to be ready for when your removal company comes. Ensure that you let them know if there are any fragile boxes that need extra care when handling. If you're moving yourself, then pack up your car or van and work out how many trips it may take. Before you leave, also take note of your final meter readings and send these off to your provider. Don't forget to leave your keys for the new owners!

#### You have arrived at your new home!

Give your removal company instructions of which boxes go in which rooms and make sure you are happy with everything that has arrived. Ensure you check for any damage before the movers leave. Read your new utility meters and send your readings of to your supplier. Taking photos of them will also ensure you have the correct reading if you need them again in the future. Unpack your essentials such as bed linen and clean towels. Don't worry about the rest, it isn't going anywhere! Order a takeaway, have a cup of tea and enjoy your first night with your family.

Right, so now you're all moved in, it's time to settle down, unpack and enjoy your new place. Remember, planning is essential to ensure your move runs stress free.

## Checklist

### Eight weeks

- Pack non-essential items
- Research your new area (transfer schools and order new uniform)
- Keep all important documents

### Six weeks

- Decide on a local removal company
- Clear out any unwanted items
- Keep packing

### Four weeks

- Notify utility companies
- Start preparation for your new house
- Keep packing

### Two weeks

- Finalise all details
- Organise pet and child care
- Cancel local services
- Keep packing

### 24 hours

- Check every room and ensure everything is packed
- Pack a night bag so everything is to hand
- Collect your new keys
- Make sure your phone is fully charged so you can get in touch with the estate agents or removal company

### Moving in

- Prepare for the arrival of the removal company and give them directions/your contact details
- Ensure everything is ready to move
- Record meter readings

### On arrival

- Give removal company instructions of what goes where
- Check for any damage before they leave
- Read your new utility meters and send them off to your supplier
- Check if the previous owners have left anything behind
- Unpack essentials
- Order a takeaway and sit back and relax!





Want to treat yourself to a proper removal company for your next move or are you prepared to do it yourself

# Removal company or brave it yourself?

**Y**ou're excited about your new home and location but the process of packing, organising and actually moving all of your items is something no-one really ever looks forward to. Not only that but you also have to contact utility companies, maintain a job, keep your children happy and clean your entire house. You do have super powers, right?

## Removal companies

Unless you live in a small property or flat, it could be worth hiring a professional removal company to help relieve some of the stress on the day. They have many skills and experience and some of the services they can provide include packing and

unpacking, dismantling and assembling furniture, loading your belongings quickly and securely, including those fragile and specialist items. They can even supply you with packing materials.

Hiring a removal company will also allow you the time to collect the keys to your new home. You also won't have to worry about the exhausting physical side of things, that being carrying boxes back and forth. Some services are great if you don't have much time to plan and get these done yourself; however these do often come at a premium and may not be suitable for those on a budget. When choosing a removal company

You also won't have to worry about the exhausting physical side of things, that being carrying boxes back and forth



its key to look at those which have good recommendations and reviews, as you need a company you can rely on. You can use comparison sites, such as [comparemymove.com](http://comparemymove.com) and [reallymoving.com](http://reallymoving.com), to help find you the best deals.

### Getting quotes

You should aim to get at least three quotes from removal companies, preferably from firms which will come out to your property rather than those who just estimate the cost over the phone, as you don't want any nasty charges later on. Plus it will give the company an accurate idea of any restricted areas in your home, if they can park a van or lorry, and how many

items you have. You should also ask for the price to be broken down so you can see just how much you are paying for when it comes to certain aspects like insurance, packing, an hourly rate, mileage and any storage costs.

Once you have found a removal company, it can be useful to send them a briefing sheet that includes information about any items which need to be specially packed, any difficult or large items, plus any carpets and curtains which need moving. Finally, it can also be helpful to send them a floor plan of the new property so they can unload efficiently.

## Top tips for packing

When packing, ensure you don't overload your boxes with heavy items, as these will be difficult to lift and could cause a back injury.

Fill any empty gaps using old newspaper, clothing, socks or even tea towels. This will help secure any items when they are being moved.

Create an inventory and label all your boxes and write the contents on each box with a marker. That way you will know which room each box is to go in. And if you are super organised, you could even colour code each room!

Pack heavier boxes on the bottom. This might seem like common sense but it will ensure that any of your fragile items won't break.

Pack a survival box. These are the things that you will need first and should include paper towels, bin bags, cutlery, the kettle, some mugs, tea, coffee, milk, sugar and finally, some toilet paper!



START YOUR

# JOURNEY

WITH US...



...and create memories that will last forever.

Talk to us now about how we can get you moving.



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