



Removals firms get booked up in advance so save the date as early as you can

See **Burke Bros** on **Stand 8** at the **FRENCH PROPERTY EXHIBITION**
Olympia London, 15-16 September 2018



“Moving into premises with no heat and light will make the day far harder, particularly if your move is during the winter when temperatures plummet and there are fewer daylight hours”

Removals expert **Ben Hingley** shares his 10 top tips on how to pack up your troubles and enjoy a smooth transit to France

Moving your belongings to start a new life in France will give you a lot to think about. After many decades of moving families to and from France, we've compiled a few hints and tips to bear in mind to help prevent any last-minute problems occurring during the move.

- 1 Save the date**
Arrange this as early as possible and notify your removal company as far ahead as you possibly can. Avoid cancellations or postponements as much as you can as these will add to the costs.
- 2 Power it up**
Removal companies are not

allowed to tamper with mains services, so make the necessary arrangements with gas and electricity boards well in advance of your move. Moving into premises with no heat and light will make the day far harder, particularly if your move is during the winter when the temperatures plummet and there are fewer daylight hours to unpack in.

- 3 Free up that freezer**
Plan ahead and run down food stocks in the weeks and days ahead of the move; otherwise you'll find there'll be quite a waste. Defrost your freezer thoroughly. Some removal companies, like Burke Bros

Moving Group, have partnerships with charities whereby they can donate any non-perishable food items that customers don't want to take with them on moving day. Speak to your removal company to see if they run such schemes.

- 4 It'll be curtains**
Your mover will only take down curtains/blinds by prior arrangement – and will not put them back up again or lay fitted carpets. Check your quotation and/or service specification to ensure you are clear on this.
- 5 Pack it in**
If you are doing the packing yourself, start early. Don't be

tempted to put it off. It is also worth investing in the best packing materials. You can often purchase British Association of Removers standard packing materials from your mover. How much packing the mover does depends on your quotation and/or service specification. If you are paying for a total service, leave it to the professionals.

- 6 Special care**
If you have possessions which require special attention or are concerned about moving items such as plants, fine art, wine collections or antiques, discuss them with your remover well in advance. They will advise you on

Discuss precious items with your remover well in advance



- how they will take care of these items and give you an idea of cost.
- 7 Drop the drawers**
As movers, we are often asked by customers if they need to empty out drawers. Our general advice is to leave them as they are, as long as they are not overfull, but don't lock them.
 - 8 Make space**
As a guide, we advise that a moving van requires about 50ft of parking space. The closer the van can park to your property, the better for a more efficient and safe removal of possessions. It's important to discuss with your mover if access to your property is difficult or if there are small doorways or spiral staircases and so on which could affect the removal crew's movement.
 - 9 Copy a key**
It is very common for the van to be

at the house before the owner is there. If possible, give a spare key to the removal company because any waiting time will add to your costs.

- 10 Move on up**
If you're moving into or out of a flat or apartment, you will need to secure priority for use of the lift. If the lift is only small or non-existent, ensure that you warn the remover in advance, as they will need to take this into account when planning the move. Don't leave it until the van arrives on moving day. ■

Ben Hingley is Sales Manager of Burke Bros Moving Group, an award-winning international moving company specialising in moving to and from France.
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