



While we all welcome the long summer days, if you're making the move to France in the summer months it's worth bearing in mind that the hotter climate can impact your moving day. The season is also typically a very busy period for removal companies, who this year are facing the extra challenges of maintaining compliance with the Covid-19 rules and negotiating post-Brexit regulations for the movement of household goods. These factors will all influence the moving process and may affect your experience of moving to France. But, with some careful planning and following some of our useful tips, there'll be no need to get too hot under the collar!

DON'T SWEAT IT

It can't be underestimated how important it is to choose a reputable and experienced removal company. This holds true no matter when you're moving, but particularly now that moving household goods into and out of the EU is so much more complex. Find a company that has the expertise and the practical

Hot moves EPN

Planning to move to your French property this summer? When the heat is on, these top tips from **Gary Burke** will help you keep cool and carry on

skills to move you door to door competently. It's not even essential to limit your choice of remover to a company local to you. Prioritise finding a remover with the right experience and knowledge of

moving to France, regardless of where they're based.

Any remover you use should be a member of the British Association of Removers (BAR). More specifically, your mover should be a financially

bonded mover who belongs to the BAR to ensure a guarantee that customers' advanced payments are protected should the company cease to trade. Equally, they should be accredited with FIDI (the global alliance of international quality removal companies) as a reflection of their operations and service to customers.

HOT AND HEAVY

Carrying household items to and from a property onto a van is more physically arduous than many people fully anticipate. Furniture can also become surprisingly heavier when being carried up and down stairs! Add in the effects of a warm summer's day or even a heatwave and it can become quite an arduous task.

Professional removers have the benefit of vast amounts



Remaining hydrated is important for the removals crew



“Bottles of water, possibly in a cooler bag, will be greatly appreciated by all involved”

of experience and training in manual handling, and their judgement can save you a lot of heartache. They're used to estimating the volume of household effects, and to working to tight timescales and know how long it takes to pack a home and to load a van. Furthermore, some items

of furniture will need to be deconstructed for the move and reconstructed at the new premises. Many professional removals can help with this and are used to putting beds, dressers and bookcases etc back together.

It's also important to choose a remover with a fleet of

modern and well-maintained vehicles that have less chance of breaking down.

JUST UNPACK

Better still, and if the budget will allow, opt for a packing service as part of the removal package. This really cuts down on the amount of work you need to put in. Your removal company should have professionally trained removal operatives to ensure that all of your personal effects make their continental journey in complete safety. All specialist items or items needing extra care, be these paintings, mirrors, musical instruments or whatever, need to be packed in special cartons with protective materials. Always remember owner-packed goods are not fully insured, whereas those packed by the mover are.

If you are doing your own packing, be advised that cheap and sub-standard packing materials are a false economy. Your remover should be able to recommend and supply you with professional, durable boxes approved by the British Association of Removers.

COOL COOPERATION

As not all clients need the use of a full-sized furniture van, some specialist removal companies offer prices for 'part-loads'. This means that you can send a small consignment of belongings over to France which goes on a shared vehicle with other customers.

The cost will then involve the space pre-booked in the van rather than charges for a sole-use vehicle. Delivery dates will always need to be flexible with this arrangement as the removal van will have several deliveries to make.

KEEP COOL

Planning ahead is always important in a move to France to ensure it goes as smoothly as possible. For example, having keys to the new property prior to the delivery day is important and will avoid the need to get hot under the collar on moving day. Always discuss the access at your French property with the home moving surveyor because sometimes a shuttle

service from the vehicle to the new home will need to be arranged and again you won't want to realise this too late.

Don't forget the essentials. It's really useful to have a few provisions at hand and bottles of water, possibly in a cooler bag as in rising temperatures, this will be greatly appreciated by all. Remaining hydrated is an obvious point but during the busy process of moving day, it's very easy to forget this.

SUMMER MADNESS

Removal companies commonly become incredibly busy during the summer months. Although we have seen a very unconventional year, it can be predicted that removal companies will still need as much notice as possible if you are wanting to move in the summer. You'll also need to factor in the extra paperwork and bureaucracy that removal companies now have to deal with to co-ordinate a move to Europe and allow enough time for this. They will need to liaise with you concerning the documentation that is required to progress through customs without delays.

HOT WHEELS

Some movers can also arrange for the collection and delivery of motor vehicles and motorbikes. These can be transferred in road trains (a vehicle with a boxed trailer). This may be particularly applicable if, for example, you don't want to drive the vehicle out to France or if you have a vintage car that you perhaps wouldn't want to travel across France in without the assistance of air-conditioning.

Bear in mind that tax and duty apply on cars that are less than six months old.

Now, more than ever, is the time to use a reputable and experienced remover for your move to France. Their advice and guidance is vital for both a smooth and safe move. And, with a few practical considerations, no heatwave can hamper your big move. ■

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Summer is the busiest time for removals firms