

## 4 Weeks to go...

### Start to pack!

- It may seem very early to start the moving process but if you are doing your own packing then an early start is essential! Certainly leave it no later than 2 weeks before your move date. Being an early bird will also leave you plenty of time to have a decent clear out and help you to organise your possessions.

### Make sure the car is running smoothly

- A healthy car is a must, particularly if you are moving a long distance away. So a service before you move is a good idea to ensure no last minute problems. Changing the address on your licence must also be done at this stage as it can take up to 3 weeks to be sent back. This can be done by filling out section 1 on the back of the paper part of your driving licence and returning it with the photo card to the DVLC.

### Changing your details with the bank...

- It is important to let the bank know your new address as soon as you can. A lot of banks will require you to go into the branch or notify them of your new address in writing. If you are moving a long distance away it might be easier to transfer your accounts to a branch nearer to your new home. Don't forget to pick up any valuables you might have put in safekeeping with the bank either!

### ...and with Credit/Store cards

- Most credit and store cards will let you change your address over the phone and this will usually be done automatically on their systems. However, it may take up to two weeks for the changes to become active on your account, and checking the procedure with the store card/credit card providers in advance is always advisable.

### Schools

- This will not be a problem if the move is quite a local one. Just be aware of catchment areas and where you are moving to in relation to your child's school. This will also be especially important if they are about to start secondary school, and of course don't forget to inform the school of the move!

### The Tax Man

- You will need to notify the tax office that you work under that you are moving, and NO your employers can't do it for you! You will have to notify them personally and you have been warned – do it as much in advance as possible - it can take a little while for the changes to become active! When changing your income tax details you will need to quote your personal reference number, this can be found on current pay slips and P60's.

## **Insurance**

- Contact individual insurance companies well in advance of your move and check your cover agreements. It is worth double checking what cover you have already got with regards to your move, you may find that your house contents insurance already covers you for a house move. This will save you having to take out extra cover with your removal company.

## **Notifying tenants/landlords**

- If you are a landlord or a tenant, make sure you have checked your contracts well in advance. Most will ask for or specify a notice period of four weeks in advance but get the magnifying glass out to check the small print on the agreement so you don't get caught out.

## **Contacting health authorities**

- Alerting the health services in good time will make registering at any new practices much easier. Sometimes their registers will be full and they will not be taking any new clients, so it is wise to make enquiries a few weeks prior to the big day. If you are not moving out of the local area it will simply be case of telling them your new address. If you are undergoing regular hospital treatment ask your doctor for a referral before you transfer.

## **TV Licence**

- When you move, your TV licence will need to move with you. You will need to notify the TV licensing authority, your local post office can advise you what options you have. Or for those of you who have access to the internet you can fill out a change of address form online on the TV licensing website.

## **Hotels**

- Everyone likes to move in the summer holidays, but they also like to holiday in the summer! So if you are going to need a hotel during your move make sure you book one well in advance to save any last minute 'no-room-at-the-inn' panics!

## **Council Tax**

- Prior to your move you will need to let the relevant authorities know in both your current area and in the new area you are moving to.

## **Pets**

- Kennels and cattery's are usually quite full in the summer months, so if you're planning a move in the warmer weather get your pets booked in early. If your move is a long distance away check with your vet about the best ways to move your pet without too much disruption. Don't forget to arrange a transfer your pet's records to a vet in your new area.

### **Visiting the new house**

- If you have access to your new house get the tape measure out to try and plan where furniture will go. Dimensions of the new rooms will also help if new carpets and curtains are being put in. If you are planning to take your own curtains, make sure the existing rails will be left behind.

### **Frozen food**

- To save on large amounts of wastage when defrosting fridges and freezers, tuck in to any food that needs using up.

## **1 week to go...**

### **Gas & Electricity**

- Contact your existing and new gas and electricity companies at least 48 hours before your move and advise them of your new address. Make sure all existing bills and readings are up to date for your old property, as you may need to refer to them in the future. Ensure card meters have no outstanding payments to be made on them.

### **Water supply**

- Disconnection and reconnection of both your existing supply and your new supply will take at least 48 hours to be processed. Notify your authorities in plenty of time so you don't find yourself high and dry.

### **Land / Mobile phones**

- Get in touch with phone and internet providers and let them know you are moving; they will need your new address and date that you would like the new number to work from. Most mobile phone companies will let you change your address over phone but it's worth checking they don't need you to confirm in writing. The key to a successful move is communication; if you are going to disconnect your phone prior to your move make sure there is another way to contact any removals, estate agents and solicitors!

### **Library books (and fines!)**

- Everyone has the odd library book lurking in the depths of their wardrobes, vastly overdue and hoping the fine will have been forgotten. **NOW** is the time to return it to its rightful home... the library.

### **Redirecting your mail**

- You can have your mail re-directed by the Post Office for up to 12 months although this must be done 5 working days before your move for it to become active. This service is only available at the post office and must be done over the counter although you can renew the redirection service for up to 2 years online.

Another useful one is printing out some change of address sticky labels and leaving them with the new house so any mail can be forwarded. They are also handy to give to friends and family when out and about.

### **Subscriptions**

- Let any clubs or organisations you belong to know of your move date and notify them of your new address, so any subscriptions can be sent to your new home.

### **Newspapers / Milk**

- Make sure all outstanding accounts have been settled and all deliveries have been cancelled.

### **The wee ones**

- If you need to arrange childminders or family care for the children try and organise this early on to make sure they will be looked after on the day.

### **Don't forget to turn the lights off!**

- If you are disconnecting the lights arrange for them to be done in good time. Replace any fittings or fixtures, such as chrome light sockets, that you have agreed to take with you.

### **Try colour coding**

- A good way to make the unpacking easier at the other end is colour coding boxes by the rooms they need to go into and drawing a colour coded map of the new house. This will also help the removal men to put them in the correct parts of the house.

### **Parking**

- As most removals vans are quite large it is a good idea to make your neighbours aware that you will need the parking space on your move day. A polite note asking them to leave a few spaces free usually works a treat. You may also need to arrange a parking permit for you or your removers with your local authorities if you are unloading in a restricted area. They may need up to 7 days notice.

### **Plant cuttings**

- Unless already stated in the fixtures and fittings list, you will have to leave the bushes behind. That doesn't mean you can't take a little bit of your favourite plants with you – so make sure you take cuttings of any greenery that you want to cultivate in your new garden.

### **Keys**

- It's really important to label keys before leaving the old property. You will know what is what but the new owners won't! It helps to keep them all together and make sure none have gone missing as well. If you are leaving any appliances behind, also leave the instruction manuals for their use.

## 3 days to go...

### Pack an overnight bag

- At the end of the move this will come in very handy when you are wading through boxes looking for a light bulb or toilet rolls. Packing a change of clothes as well will also make the day after the move a lot easier. Look at it as a survival tactic... what might you need in an emergency? Plasters, candles, screwdriver, matches, money and a list of important telephone numbers. You'll be surprised by what you might need to get to quickly for a couple of days after the move.

### Last minute wash

- Get all the things that need a wash and put them through the machine, they will need a couple of days to dry and to make sure nothing gets packed when damp.

### Keys to your new home

- Check when the keys to your new property will be available and that you are clear about what to do and where to leave the keys to your old property.

## 2 days...

### Eat your greens...and everything else in the fridge!

- You've probably been reducing the amount of food shopping that's been done for the past couple of weeks to minimise the amount of food to move. Now is the time to really cut down and empty out the fridge and freezer. It will need time to defrost and dry out, especially if your furniture is going into store or travelling long distances. Failing to defrost it before the move could result in some very soggy boxes at the other end.

### The back of the kitchen cupboard

- Get rid of that 3 year old jar of pickles, surely it is out of date by now! Time to go through the cupboards. Scary as that may seem, it is actually a very worthwhile exercise, giving you a chance to check all packets and bottles are tightly sealed to avoid any spillages.

### Valuables/documents

- Pack them and put them all somewhere safe, not too safe so that you can't find them again though!

### Split Deliveries

- These can get complicated if some furniture is going to more than one destination; make sure everyone knows what they are receiving and when to expect it.

# 1 day to go 'til the big day!

## All packed and ready to go

- The last few bits of packing should be done today leaving only a few essentials that you may need for the following day in the kitchen and bathroom.

## Dismantle & Disconnect

- Unless prearranged with your removals firm you will need to have dismantled any self-assembly furniture that is too big to move as a complete unit. Take down any curtains and fixtures that are going with you to the new house. Disconnect any appliances (washing machine/dryer) and fit the transit brackets to secure the drum during transportation. It's worth noting as well that the safest way to move a television is to disconnect it 24 hours before the move, this will mean they are at room temperature for the transit – moving when still retaining heat can cause internal damage.

## Keeping the troops fed and watered

- Moving house is thirsty, hungry work and keeping the refreshments flowing will ensure everyone is a lot happier. Pack tea and coffee in a box with the kettle and maybe a few nibbles to keep you going!

## Toiletries

- Leave an open box in the bathroom for any toiletries that you are taking so that any further items can be added to it in the morning of the move.

## Outdoor Furniture

- Try and move any outdoor furniture into a garage or to a dry place, giving it a chance to dry out before going into the removal van.

## Work out a route to your new home

- Make sure the route and directions are clear for the removals van and that they have a contact number in case anyone gets lost!

## Mobile phone

- Fully charge your mobile; it will no doubt get some usage on the day!

**Have a good night sleep!**

## **It's the big day!!!**

- If your property will be empty for a while after you move out make sure the water and heating has been turned off. Lock everything up ensuring you are leaving the house secure and hand over the keys to your estate agent.
- Take final readings of gas, water and electricity at the old property and let the relevant suppliers know, so you don't get charged more than you should! Make sure that checking the new meters is also one of the first things you do on arriving in your new property as well.
- Most importantly...keep a cool head!

## **Time to load up**

### **Keeping the kids occupied**

- If you have organised a child minder for the day drop the children off and make sure they're happy. If they are going to be there on the move day make sure they are not too disorientated and give them a clear spot to play in with a few toys. If your child is older they may want to get involved a little more in the packing and sorting, make sure they have enough to do to keep them going.

### **Strip the beds.**

- Put all bedding and any linen in bin liners; make sure they are clearly marked so they don't get mistaken for rubbish! These can be squashed around furniture in the van to provide some cushioning.

### **The van arrives.**

- When the van arrives make sure you are introduced to everyone in the team and try to learn their names, they will be with you all day so it does help! Show them round the house and point out what is to go and what isn't. Give them a map or directions to the new property and make sure they have a contact number for you and know what time you expect to arrive.

### **The all important tea break**

- Keep an eye on the refreshment situation and keep the kettle boiling.

### **Last look around**

- Once you are satisfied that the van is completely loaded have a walk through the house and check every room to make sure nothing has been left behind. It is your responsibility to make sure everything is

remembered. Good places to double check are behind doors, in cupboards and on walls – clocks frequently get forgotten!

- **Lock up and say goodbye!**

## **Unloading at the other end**

### **The New house!!**

- Unlock your new front door and have a look around! Take the removals team leader on a tour of the house and explain which rooms will be which and where everything will need to go. Start unloading ....

### **Points of contact**

- Unless you have drawn a colour coded map of the house and labelled all the boxes with the different colours, the removals men will not know exactly where you would like each box to go. It may be useful to have someone as a point of contact who is able to direct them to the right room in the house in case they have any questions.

### **Double check the van**

- When everything has been unloaded have a quick look inside to make sure nothing has been left. Have a look round the house in case there is anything heavy that might need moving, if you ask the removal men nicely they should be more than happy to oblige shifting a few things.

### **Removal Insurance**

- Most removal firms' insurance cover will expire a week after the move, so check each box to check for damage or any breakages as soon as you arrive.

### **It's been a long day... time for bed**

- Unpack the bed linen from the bin bags and get a good night sleep!

# Removals checklist

## Choosing the removers and getting a quote

When choosing a removal firm it is best to shop around a bit and get two or three quotations, it is worth noting that the cheapest quote is not necessarily the best and be sure to check what it is you are getting for your money.

Some questions to ask when choosing your remover may be:

- Are you having your items professionally packed and does your quote include that?
- Does the quote include VAT?
- How long will the move take?
- Will the packing include large, valuable or breakable objects?
- Will insurance be included in the quote and will it cover the full value of the goods whilst in transit and in storage?

Most of all the way to ensure an accurate quote for your removal is to be very clear about what is moving! Garden, garage and loft contents are often neglected when briefing the estimators.

Also ask the removers to send you a quote in writing and don't just rely on a quote given over the phone.

If possible try to start early and plan as much in advance as you can. With dates remaining unconfirmed until the last minute, provisionally booking a day to move with the removers will give you something to work towards and may ensure a firm booking with the removal company of your choice.

## Choosing the day

- Fridays are generally the busiest days of the week for moving house so be warned!! A move on a Monday would also probably be much cheaper!

## Main services

- Make all arrangements with water boards, gas and electricity well in advance. The removers are not responsible for cancelling mains services, you are!

## Fridges and freezers

- Emptying fridges and freezers is your responsibility; the removal company are not responsible for any damage to items caused by leakages from either one. Also make sure they are clean and dry before the move and there won't be any nasty soggy surprises at the other end.

### **Carpets and curtains**

- Unless agreed prior to the move and it has been quoted for, removers will not normally tend to any curtain fittings or re-laying fitted carpets.

### **Self assembly furniture**

- Once dismantled, this can sometimes be difficult to put back together and may not go back together as well as it originally did. This may mean it won't be covered by the insurance, check with your removers how these items should be handled.

### **Packing**

- It may mention in your removal contract that anything you pack yourself will not be covered by insurance, so if you have paid for the professionals to pack it is best to leave them to it! The contract you sign with your mover will clearly state what packing the removals firm will be doing for you and what you have agreed to do yourself. If the removals firm is doing your packing make sure everything is laid out onto a suitable work surface (especially important for glass and china!) or in a logical packing order. Also find out whether they will be coming around the day before to pack or if they will be doing it all on the move day.

### **Insuring your move**

- Insuring your personal possessions for a move is always advisable. Your removal company will offer insurance cover and it is wise to take them up on their offer. This is specially designed to cover any possible risks during your move although hopefully it won't be needed!!

### **Parking at the new address**

- Warn the removers if there are any parking restrictions at the new house. Your quote is given based on the time needed to load and unload the van; this can make a difference to the price of your move if access or parking is restricted. Alert your new neighbours of the move as well to make sure there is adequate parking space for all the vehicles.

### **Avoid unexpected delays and difficulties**

- When unloading at the new property it pays to be prepared for any problems that may crop up. It is good to remember that you have seen the new property and know what to expect, but the movers haven't. Let them know about any access problem areas including small door and trees close by. In a flat, if the lift is particularly small or the stairs very narrow – warn the removal company in advance- this could result in the move taking longer than anticipated and costing a lot more.

**Getting in**

- If you have a spare key to the new property give it to the removal van, they can get in and start unloading even if they are there before you. Waiting time may mean extra charges.

# Handy Packing Hints

## A few tips to make the packing up that little bit more bearable!

- Start early
- Make sure all your boxes are sturdy and strong enough
- Always fill the box as much as you can, but you must be able to lose the lid. Enabling the boxes to be stacked on top of each other in the removal van.
- **NEVER** make boxes so heavy that they cannot be lifted safely. Gage how heavy they are becoming while you are packing them. If they are getting to heavy during packing fill the rest of the box with light items such as cushions or soft toys.
- **Always** use strong tape to fasten the top and bottom of all your boxes. Leaving the box folded just at the bottom is asking for trouble and you risking the entire contents falling on the floor!
- Label very clearly the designated room it the new property for each box, do this on the tape and then the movers will know where they need to end up. As a general rule of thumb place bulky and heavy items in the bottom of the box you are packing. Do remember though that one item on its own doesn't weigh very much but lots of them do so don't overload them with too many things!
- Make sure all bottles and jars are securely tightened and no spillages can occur.
- As mentioned before, bin bags are great for packing bedding - and also for cushioning furniture in the van!
- Concentrate on one room at a time; this will stop the packing from becoming too overwhelming.
- **DO NOT** pack any flammable items in your boxes as these will not be allowed on the van – these include paraffin, creosote and rags soiled with fuel. If you do pack them into a box they will render any insurance cover invalid. Secure all sharp objects and knives in a container and do not leave them loose in a box, they can easily cut through the cardboard and can injure the person carrying them.

- **Fragile Items** – Although you will know which boxes contain fragile items, not everyone will – clearly label them as FRAGILE so they can be put on top of all the others and not get squashed.
- Use **ACID FREE** tissue paper if you are putting silverware into storage, this will protect it from tarnishing over long periods of time.
- Wrap all breakables in tissue paper or bubble wrap, good time to get left over Christmas wrapping paper out as well! Do not use newspaper to wrap items as it may leave smudges from the print. Old linen and towels are also useful to cushion and wrap fragile items.
- Use tape or rope to bind together disassembled bed frames.
- Cover tabletops with old linen or a blanket. Removing the legs as well will also make transportation easier, just be sure to put all nuts and bolts in a plastic bag and fasten it to a leg.
- Loosen and turn bicycle handlebars sideways, this will make it easier to get in the van, also keep chains and pedals covered up so as not to get grease and oil on other items.
- Roll up carpets and rugs and secure with tape or rope.

# Moving the Kids

Moving house can be stressful, and moving with a family can be even more challenging! There is a great deal of change for you and your kids and it is important to try and make the moving day as much fun as possible for them.

The best thing to do is to organise someone to look after your children for the bulk of the day. Try and explain to them exactly what to expect and what will be happening on the move day.

## A few tips to get the children involved

- The **most important** thing is to get the kids involved in the move. They may be nervous about moving to a new area or school and keeping them occupied and helping out will make the transition easier for everyone.
- A good way to enthuse children about moving is to make it all seem like a big adventure; if they see you are excited about the prospect of moving then they will start to feel the same.
- Involve them in the house hunting process as it will make them feel like they had a part in finding the house, if you are not able to take them along make sure you bring pictures back of any houses you are considering and ask them what they think.
- Allowing them to choose a small number of toys or other items to keep with them on moving day.
- Let them get involved in some of the packing; this can help to make them feel part of the move and make it more fun.
- Give them enough time to say good-bye to all the friends and family they will be leaving behind. Also encourage them to swap contact information so they can keep in touch with their friends easily.
- Giving them a special job will make them feel like they are making a valid contribution on the moving day.
- Allow them to decide how their new rooms should be decorated and arranged, as it will help them to re-adjust more quickly.
- Bookshops stock children's books that help kids come to terms and adjust to the upcoming move. This may help them to cope with any uneasiness they may be experiencing.

- Make sure you child proof your new home if you have young children or babies, removing dangerous situations and making it more safe.
- If the kid's rooms are not very child friendly, don't worry! Whatever size or shape of room you can always tailor it to your child by adding more storage or a small play area, and there are lots of cheap ways to do this!
- Teach them their new address and contact number, the sooner you do this the better!

# How to move your plants

When contacting your removal company it is important to mention whether or not you have a lot of plants to move. Not being able to stack them on top of each other means they take up the most room in the back of a removal van.

## 2 weeks before the move

- Start pruning your plants, this will assist the packing. Florists and plant books will have instructions on the best ways to prune individual plants.
- Make cuttings of all your existing plants that you wish take with you to the new house and contain the growth of climbing plant life by cutting them back, but only if it the right time of year for pruning. Remove any part of the plant that may break or cause problems in the move.

## The day before the move

- Move all outside plants into a covered dry area, like a garage or a conservatory. They will need to dry out and stay dry for the moving day, so that they do not make anything in the van wet.
- Use cardboard boxes to pack your plants, placing them in the box and holding them in place with dampened news or packing paper.

## Moving Day

- Make sure all household plant pots have had excess water drained from them. Line a carton with a plastic sheet or bag and place your plants inside. Make sure any boxes with breakable pots in are labeled up as fragile before going in the van.
- If you decide that you don't want your plants to be transported in the van, label the boxes clearly with 'DO NOT LOAD' and put to one side.

## At the new house

- Unpack the plants as soon as possible after you arrive at your new home. The best way to remove the plants without any damage to the stems is through the bottom of the box and gradually exposing to sunlight so they can re-adjust.
- If it is not possible to replant immediately, dig a hole and cover the roots to protect them from frost.

- Some plants can be dug up to be transported, and then transplanted at the other end. If you are digging up any plants for the move, wrap the root ball in plastic and make sure the soil is damp. Box up any plants without a pot and stabilise them for the van ride with cane supports.
- It is important to check through the outside plants at your new house, just in case any inside ones have been put with them. Protect your household plants from cold and bruising by wrapping them in newspaper until they are in the warmth of your new home.
- The removal companies will always make an effort to take care of moving any plants you may have but it is worth noting that because plants are living organisms they will not be covered under any insurance policy, this would also probably apply for loss or damage as well. Details will usually be on the back of any contracts or acceptance forms that you will have received from the removers.

## **Moving your pet**

As with moving with children, try and make arrangements for your pet/pets to stay with a friend, relative or neighbour that they feel comfortable with. Lots of strange people coming and going may upset and disturb them and there is a chance they may be able to escape as doors are likely to be left open. You will also be able to concentrate on your move without worrying about looking after your pet.

Cats and dogs in particular become very attached to their own territory and a move may leave them distressed for a little while, it is important to give them extra care and attention until they re-adjust to their new surroundings.

Have a new tag made up with your name, new address and new phone number and make sure that they are wearing it on the day of the move. This will increase their chances of getting back to you if they do manage to escape.

### **Short Moves**

- If you are only moving locally it makes the most sense for you to transport your pet in the car with you on the move day.
- Remember to keep your pet safe and fed and watered. Perhaps put them in an unused room or in the garden with plenty of toys to occupy their time.

### **Moving you pet by car**

If you're moving your pet by car, there a few things you should have to hand to make the journey smoother for everyone:

- An old blanket to protect your car seats.
- A couple of toys, and a piece of material with your scent on it.
- Two plastic containers - one with fresh water, the other food and treats.
- Many pets find car travel extremely stressful and some may even suffer from travel sickness. If your pet does become anxious in the car ask the vet what medication they can suggest to make the journey easier for them. Also be prepared to make several stops along the way. Smaller pets travel quite well and have no problems with car journeys, to keep them extra calm cover their cage with a cloth.

- If you are moving a long distance an over night stop may be required. Check beforehand to make sure hotels on the way welcome pets.

### **Moving Fish**

- A visit to your local pet shop or aquarium will come be able to advise you on the best way to move individual types of fish. You are also able to buy special fish containers to transport them in during the move.

### **Pet Transporters**

Depending on how comfortable your pet is with travelling it may be advisable to consider enlisting the services of a pet transporter. They can organise every aspect of moving your pet from beginning to end with a minimum of fuss.

Services may include:

- Advice to on how to prepare your pet for the move
- Information about any requirements or restrictions on pet ownership in your new area
- Providing board for your pet until you arrive at your new home
- Delivery of your pet to your new address

### **Other points to consider**

- If you are renting in your new property you may want to take a referral letter from your vet, and make sure your landlord is aware of your pet as well!

# How to move your computer

To protect your computer and files on your computer during your move here are a few things to remember...

## Back everything up

- Making back-ups of all your important files and programs should be done all the time, but most importantly when you are moving! Put all back up disks in a secure container and label it clearly. Make sure nothing is left in your base unit and remove all floppy disks and CD-ROMs.

## Packing Your Computer

- To protect your computer from physical jarring and shock the original packaging that your computer came in is the best choice of packing for the move. As it was designed for your computer it will hold the equipment more securely in place.
- Be careful of moving base units around too much during the move and systems that are shipped or carried upside down can cause interior cards to loosen and become damaged. This can be repaired but it can be costly and time consuming.

## Monitor

- Special care must be taken to protect your monitor as the screen is made of glass can be easily damaged. If you don't have the original monitor packaging use an appropriate sized box and pack it in tightly with bubble wrap.

**Be sure to have your computer insured before your move!**

## Storage

If you are putting any of your property into storage it's worth checking a few things out before your move.

- If you can make a trip to the warehouse where your goods will be stored and have a look around.
- Make sure you check with the storage company how much it costs to you're your possessions out of store.
- Ask the company to provide you with an inventory of all your items in storage, and double check everything its there.
- Make sure the company have your new contact details.
- Arrange insurance cover with the mover for duration of the storage and make sure fire cover is included!!!
- Identify any items you may want access to during the period of storage
- Make sure all recently cleaned fabrics are dry and that there is nothing damp being packed away.
- Most removal companies will offer storage boxes; these are usually secure timber boxes that are stacked three or four high. This method means your possessions are easily transported and are secure.

## Clearing out your clutter

Moving house presents the perfect opportunity to sort through some of the excess items that have been acquired since your last move. By having a good clear out you can cut down on things you will need to pack and move but also raise a little bit of extra cash.

### Become an online auctioneer!

- Selling your goods online is a way of reaching a wide customer base and the whole world becomes your oyster, not just your neighbourhood.
- Before buying or selling any goods online you will need to register with the auction sites
- Every auction site will offer various methods of payment and some will use an online banking system, where you can receive payment for your auctions.
- Be honest in the descriptions of your items and present them well. A good quality photo with a catchy word or two will ensure they are more likely to sell.
- It is advisable that the online site is recommended and secure. You can do this by consulting website and computer magazines.

### Garage and car boot sales

These are always fun to do and it can be a good day out.

- For garage sales try and get an advert in the local papers a week before your, you can also get the kids involved by asking them to draw some colourful posters to put up around the area.
- Make sure you display your items nicely on the tables and rails, people will take more time browsing if everything is well laid out.
- Don't overprice your goods and always be ready to bargain with your customers, that's half the fun of it!
- Have plenty of change.
- Don't come home with any shopping!

- Make sure you check how much a space at a car boot fair costs as you need to make sure you will have enough to sell to not be out of pocket
- At the end of the sale it's a good chance to put anything left over in the car and take it to your local charity shop.

## **Charity Shops**

- Charity shops always welcome donations and clearing out a house will turn up lots of unwanted items that they will be able to sell on in their shops.
- OXFAM work with some removals firms and run a scheme where you ask the movers to supply you with special OxBox stickers to put on boxes of any unwanted items. Your movers will then collect the boxes for OXFAM and take them to their warehouse where the charity can then come and collect them to sell in their shops.