

Moving in

There are a number of things you need to do as soon as possible once you've moved into a new home - whether it's a rental property or one you've bought yourself.

Safety

- Find out where the trip switches, water and gas mains valves are, as you may need to turn them off in an emergency.
- Check that all the windows and doors lock securely.
- Check that the property has enough smoke and CO2 alarms.
- Check that there is a fire blanket in the kitchen.
- Check that all the electrical appliances are safe.
- Work out how to get out in an emergency.

Things to do

- Get insurance. If you are renting, you will only need insurance for your belongings. If you own your home, you will need buildings insurance as well.
- Register with the gas/electricity companies.
- Get the telephone connected in your name.
- Register for rates. If you are renting privately, you may not have to pay rates.
- Register to vote.
- Register with a new doctor and dentist.
- Get a TV licence.
- Find out when your rubbish will be collected, and where you can store rubbish in between collections.

People to contact

Make sure everybody has your new address and telephone number so they can contact you. Don't forget to tell:

- Friends and family
- Your bank or building society
- Your insurer
- Your employer
- Your school, university or college
- Your doctor, dentist, or optician
- The Social Security agency or Pension Service
- The Driver and Vehicle Licensing NI to change the address on your driving licence.

Remember to contact any other companies with whom you have a contract or who send you regular information, for example:

- Your mobile phone supplier
- Your internet service provider
- Any stores with which you have credit cards or reward cards
- Any magazines you subscribe to
- Any charities you donate to
- Any clubs or societies you belong to
- Your gym.

TIP!

To save time, register at www.iammoving.com. This website has a large database of utilities suppliers, store cards, government offices and other companies, and can notify them of your change of address for you free of charge. You can also ask the Post Office to redirect your mail.