



UTILITIES:
Find out who your utility companies are and register in your name. You should take meter readings on the day you move in if your gas, electricity or water is metered. Check on a comparison website such as www.uswitch.com if you can save money by changing suppliers. Make sure you've made arrangements to pay any outstanding bills from your old home too, or it will negatively affect your credit rating.



FIND A NEW DOCTOR AND DENTIST:
Surgeries only take patients in their local area so if you've moved you may need to find new ones and transfer your records across. Go to www.nhs.uk to find your local surgeries.



INFORM YOUR BENEFITS PROVIDER:
Inform your benefits provider: Moving home and switching benefits can mean delays to your payments if you don't tell your jobcentre and HMRC immediately. Let them know as soon as you have signed your tenancy, and keep a copy of your tenancy agreement to send to them.



CHECK YOUR HOME:
Make sure you know where your utility meters and mains boxes are, and when / where the bins get collected from. Ensure you have all the keys you need and that you are happy with the security. Your landlord may have given you an inventory listing everything that they have provided (furniture etc.) so check that it's all there before you sign it. Also test that your appliances work (cooker, smoke alarms etc) and if not, let your landlord know ASAP.



ELECTORAL POLL:
You need to be registered on this in order to vote, and if you are not registered it negatively affects your credit rating so it's important it is up to date with your correct address. Go to www.aboutmyvote.co.uk for more information and forms.



CHANGE OF ADDRESS:
Other companies you may need to inform of your change of address are phone companies, banks, employers, DVLA (if you have a driving license) creditors, magazine subscriptions etc. The website www.lamoving.com has a free service where you can inform multiple companies at once that you've moved.



COUNCIL TAX:
You will automatically get billed council tax as a new tenant so tell your local office immediately when you move in, and remember to say whether you're getting benefits and/or live on your own as you will be eligible for a 25% single persons discount. If you leave it too long, the council will fine you and even take you to court so don't delay!



DISCOVER YOUR LOCAL AREA:
Where are your local shops and when are they open until? Check your local bus, tube and train links, and make sure you feel comfortable with walking routes, especially in the dark.



TV LICENSE:
Watching live TV without a license is against the law, so make sure you get a license if you haven't got one, or transfer your current arrangement across to your new address. Go to www.tvlicensing.co.uk for more information.