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1 Heading for a new home

Moving into a new home is a happy occasion and one we look forward to, but also one of the most stressful events in our lives. Good planning and an early start will help.



Susanna Haanpää Photos Anna Niskanen

Start planning and clearing out unwanted things as soon as you know you will be moving. It's pointless to drag toys, clothes, crockery or household appliances that are no longer needed in the new home, where they'd end up clogging storage space and closets.

Items that are in good condition can be sold at a flea market, or you could organise your own yard sale. Unwanted goods can also be donated to charity. Clean and useable clothing and household textiles can be taken to charity shops or the Salvation Army. Helsinki Metropolitan Area Reuse Centre receives or makes free home collections of clean furniture that is in good condition, as well as reasonably new home appliances and computers in any condition.

The next thing to consider is how to organise the actual move: whether to do the whole job yourself with volunteer help or to get professional help. There are many alternatives for the latter option, from hiring a van and driver only to a complete removal service, whereby the property is packed in the old

home and unpacked and put in place according to the occupant's instructions in the new home.

Packing up the home

When you get the keys to the new home, get a cloth and wipe down at least the cupboards and wardrobes or closets. As the boxes are brought in, you can start emptying them into their correct places straight away.

At both ends, protect the main walkways with something like thin corrugated cardboard or old rugs, so that grains of sand don't scratch the floors or make a mess.

Pack a few basic tools so that they are easily at hand in the new home. At least a screwdriver and Allen key are useful.

Drawers and doors should be taped shut, so they don't open and get damaged when moved. Remove the tapes as soon as possible at the new home, so they don't leave marks on the furniture.

Protect tables, sofas and armchairs with bubble wrap or flexible corrugated cardboard, to prevent

them from getting dirty or being damaged in transit.

Everything breakable should be packed in strong plastic removal boxes. Wrap fragile items in tissue paper.

All heavy items, such as books, should also be packed in plastic removal boxes. They can be stacked and moved on a trolley.

Pillows, duvets and towels can be packed in refuse sacks, which can go on top of the removal load. Clothes on hangers can be protected with a refuse sack, which forms a suit bag: the hanger hook is pushed through the bottom of the sack.

Light items, such as children's toys, can be packed in cardboard boxes.

Mark the boxes with the contents and in which room the box belongs. This way, the removal people can take the boxes straight to the right rooms in the new home.

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2 Renewable district heating

The aims of improving the energy efficiency of buildings are becoming more ambitious. As well as ordinary consumers, property owners are also watching their carbon footprints. Our common goal is the reduction of emissions and curbing climate change.

District heating produced by cogeneration provides an eco-efficient heating solution, which also fulfils the criteria of environmental certification. The environment and fuel are saved when electricity and heating are produced in a single process.

Consumers' needs and user habits change. Buildings are made more energy-efficient and the need for heating changes. So does district heating. We are constantly developing it and seeking new solutions for more ecological heating.

Helsinki is expanding into new areas, and improvements are made in the insulation of buildings in the old parts of the city. Existing building stock is refurbished to correspond to today's requirements. We can offer appropriate solutions for different areas and properties.

Östersundom in Sipoo will see new solutions in small-scale heating production. As an area, Östersundom differs from the rest of Helsinki due to its location and building density. It will be built relatively sparsely, which provides a good opportunity of testing new energy solutions, such as geothermal heat and renewable solar energy. For heating a block going up in another part of the city and applying low carbon design and building, Jätkäsaari, Helsingin Energia will roll out a new district heating product helping to increase the share of renewables and biofuels in energy generation.

District heating is easily linked to new, intelligent energy systems and developing building service technology. Monitoring energy consumption helps to make considerable energy savings.

New technology is also applied in heating production. For example, heating plants are already built with a capability of using bio-based oil, despite it not yet being available on the market. Future development is taken into consideration today.

District heating helps to save energy!

Marko Riipinen
Director, HelenLämpö



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Into the new

Before you leave, clean the fridge and defrost the freezer, and turn them off. Leave their doors ajar to prevent an unpleasant smell.

Protect house plants so their leaves and flowers are not damaged during the move. In frosty weather, the plants should be wrapped in thick layers of newspaper. Even so, move the plants quickly from the home into the vehicle and take them into the new home first.

For the volunteer helpers, make sure you have plenty of work gloves, drinks and something to eat.

Tell both old and new neighbours about the move. Moving things causes a certain amount of noise in the stairways, and your crew will have to keep lifts and parking bays held up.

If nobody you know has a suitable van for the move, you can hire one from a vehicle hire firm, internet or removal firms. One with a hydraulic tailgate makes the move quicker. It descends to ground level and the stacked boxes can be easily moved on a trolley.

Remember!

- Terminate your old electricity contract and make a new one at least two weeks before the moving date. Power can be connected automatically in dwellings with a remotely read electricity meter.
- If you live in rented accommodation, check the period of notice in your rental agreement and notify your landlord that you are leaving.
- Hand over all the keys to your old home to the new occupant.
- Notify the Post Office and Population Register Centre of the change of address within a week of the moving date: www.muuttoilmoitus.fi.
- Notify the change of address to the service companies of both the old and new housing company, magazine subscription services, bank, telephone company, employer, and library. Send a change-of-address card to your friends, relatives and other people you know.
- Transfer your household insurance and update your insurance cover for your new home. Check the terms of your insurance to make sure the removal is also covered.
- Transfer your internet connection and TV license to the new address in good time.

Sources: www.martat.fi, www.kierratyskeskus.fi

Spotlight on light bulbs Study and compare



© iStockPhoto

Bright 60-watt incandescent bulbs will vanish from the market in September. What to use in their place?

As incandescent bulbs have gradually been removed from the market, they have been replaced with numerous compact fluorescent bulbs, which consume a fraction of the energy of incandescent bulbs.

The consumer may be confused when shopping for bulbs. Instead of watts, attention should focus on the lumen or luminous flux value of the bulb. It gives the amount of light radiated by the bulb. If you are looking for the same luminous flux for a compact fluorescent bulb as that of a 60-watt incandescent bulb, its lumen value should be at least 700. The lumen value is printed on the bulb packaging.

Visit the bulb exhibition

You can get to know the various compact fluorescent, halogen and LED bulbs at the Energy Advisory Centre. In September, new bulb displays will be installed at the Centre, where you can compare the different bulbs, their outputs and bases (E14, E27 and GU) and luminous intensities. We have tried to equip the stands with a comprehensive selection of bulb types used in homes.

"For example, the 60-watt incandescent bulb has now been replaced by an equivalent LED bulb. It is also displayed on the new stand," Energy Adviser **Eva Spiegel** from Helsingin Energia says.

www.lamputtieto.fi, www.helen.fi

Make use of Sävel Plus

Whether you are an electricity or district heating customer, you have a handy tool for checking your own energy consumption in the Sävel Plus reporting service. With Sävel Plus, you can even monitor your energy consumption hour by hour, if your home has a remotely read meter. This way, you can improve the efficiency of your energy use, saving real cash and the environment.

You will find the Sävel Plus service at www.helen.fi/raportointi. You log into the electricity reporting service using the Electricity Online log-in codes. You can get them by registering using the customer and consumption site numbers on your electricity bill. The codes for district heating reporting are the numbers of the meter and consumption point, found on your district heating bill.

Did you know that...
... leaving home electrical equipment on stand-by consumes as much electricity in Finland in a year as 250,000 apartments! Turn off electrical equipment when it is not being used.
Source WWF



© iStockPhoto

Easy, paperless and secure

The e-bill or e-invoice developed together by the banks is a secure, easy and quick way of receiving and paying bills. It saves time, paper and the environment. There is no risk of the bill getting lost.

The e-bill already has all the information the payer would have to enter himself: account number, reference number, amount payable and due date. The breakdown is also shown on the bill. The payer only needs to approve the bill in the internet bank, after which the sum is debited from the account on the due date.

The bill details, such as the due date, can be changed by the payer, if necessary. There is an option of automatic payment of e-bills, so that you don't even need to approve them.

Get to know your online bank

Banks have their own practices and additional services related to e-bills. For example, most of the banks send a notification that an e-bill has arrived by text message or email. It depends on the bank whether the notification is free or charged. All banks archive the bills in the internet bank. An archived bill looks the same as a paper bill.

How to start using e-bills

The e-bill agreement is made in your own online bank. The agreement is easy to make while paying a paper bill, by selecting the e-bill as delivery method. The next bill may still arrive by post, but from then on, the bill will come to your internet bank.

● AT YOUR SERVICE Service numbers and price info

Helsingin Energia

Telephone 09 6171
Sähkötalo, Kampinkuja 2,
FI-00090 Helen
www.helen.fi

Customer service, 3rd floor

Mon-Fri 8.30-16
Telephone service Mon-Fri 8-18
Domestic customers 010 802 802
Business customers 010 802 803
Electricity meter readings 010 802 804

Fault reports

Breakdowns in electricity supply
08001 80808

Breakdowns in district heating supply

08001 60602
Faults in outdoor lighting 08001 73173
Telephone calls received by Helsinki Energy customer service are recorded.
Call charges for numbers beginning with 010:
• from landlines: 8.28 c/call + 5.95 c/min.
• from mobile phones, all operators: 8.28 c/call + 17.04 c/min.
The prices include VAT at 23%.
Our free e-services are available on our website: www.helen.fi

Advisory services

Energy Advisory Centre 09 617 2726

Advice on how to choose and use domestic appliances. You can also borrow energy, moisture, structural, surface temperature and light meters from us:
energiakeskus@helen.fi
Advice on electricity use and energy saving
09 617 4010

District heating

New connections to district heat
09 617 2961
Advisory service on heat use
09 617 2969
Billing and consumption enquiries
09 617 2856

HELSINGIN ENERGIJA'S AND HELEN SÄHKÖVERKKO OY'S ONLINE MAGAZINE

Published by:
Helsingin Energia
Kampinkuja 2, Helsinki
FI-00090 HELEN
tel. 09 6171
fax 09 617 2360
www.helen.fi
Editor-in-chief: Seija Uusitalo