

Moving On Out (2020)

1. From a distance

COVID-19 has changed the way we are doing everything at the moment, including [how you need to arrange moving out of your property](#) in Swansea. Although it is fine for you to move out of property when your tenancy comes to an end, you will still need to observe Social Distancing and follow the other rules put in place by [Welsh Government](#).

South Wales Police have told us,

For Universities...in South Wales...students collecting belongings fall within the moving home exemption to Regulation 8...such attendance at premises should be for a minimal period and involve the lowest possible number of people at one time. Social distancing should be observed throughout.

This guidance is based on the law in Wales and students may wish to consult police forces outside of South Wales.

...we don't want...everyone turning up [at the] same time and this has to be done sensibly.

2. It's (not) too late to Prioritise

Taking the above into account, it is really important for you to prioritise. Make a note of the date your tenancy ends and work backwards from there. Take a walk (or walk in your mind) around the house and plan when you will do each of the next steps to make sure you don't miss something.

3. Bills, Bills, Bills

It can be surprising how many bills, contracts and Direct Debits we accumulate living in a property. Even if some of your bills are included in your rent, there may well be additional costs that you and your housemates have signed up for. Common bills include energy, TV licence, Internet, delivery services and streaming services. Make sure you leave yourself good time to contact providers, so that they can send you out final bills before your tenancy ends. Take photos of any final bills and send copies to your housemates and landlord to cover yourself if there are any disagreements.

4. Money, money, money, mon-ey

Your deposit should be secured in an official government [Tenancy Deposit Protection](#) (TDP) scheme. Landlords can make a claim against your deposit from a TDP to cover costs such as repairs and cleaning, so you can save yourself some money by doing some of these things yourselves. Some jobs should always be left to professionals, but small things like filling small patches in the wall or hanging that picture back on the wall might save you a few quid.

Likewise, cleaning is always on a landlord's radar and – in fact – is the [number one cause of a claim](#) to a TDP. It's also something you can do yourself, using [guides like this one](#).

5. Don't leave me this way

After you've packed all of your worldly goods into your bag, washing basket, drawers and any other container you can find, you will likely have some stuff left over. Make sure you are aware [of which bin week you are moving out on](#) and try to get all of your waste and recycling sorted before you hand your keys over. If there is a lot of waste left over, your landlord can charge you for its removal, so it is best to get it out yourselves, either using the regular waste collection or by doing a car journey to [the local tip](#)¹ before filling your car to go home.

In normal circumstances, we encourage students to do everything they can to reduce waste by recycling and [donating](#) what they can. This year we face exceptional circumstances and, as such, it is more difficult to donate your unwanted stuff. Given the circumstances, we are making a plea to all students to please take what you can with you and donate it when charities reopen again post-Lockdown.

6. Just find the feeling, Pass it on

Whether you had a great experience or a negative one, you can pass on your knowledge to future students by leaving a review about your landlord or letting agent. There currently is no one-stop landlord rating site for Swansea, but leaving a review of an agent on Google or one for a landlord on a forum can help to inform future generations.

If you have had a particularly difficult time and you want to call a landlord's suitability to let property into question, you can contact [Rent Smart Wales](#). All landlords and agents are required to hold a licence with Rent Smart Wales by [Welsh law](#) and you can make complaints about individuals there.

¹ All tips in Swansea were closed indefinitely at the writing of this document but may have reopened since