

Quick Moving Tips for Switzerland:

How to Move Stress-Free and Even Enjoy It

A move needs to be planned carefully and well in advance. With our quick tips for moving in Switzerland, you can keep an overview, stay calm and even keep your good mood.

Things to remember before and during the move:

Moving on your own

Small, medium or large: choosing the right size van is important to make sure that everything fits in. Multiple journeys cost time and money. Medium and large vans are very popular, so it's advisable to reserve well in advance [📅].

Important: A valid driving licence for the relevant vehicle category is required. When picking up and returning the van, check for damage and defects and document them (take photos!). Don't skimp on insurance – fully comprehensive cover is particularly recommended for inexperienced drivers. Register a second driver who can take over if necessary!

Useful tips: Depending on the size of your home and furniture, a small to medium-sized van may be sufficient – if in doubt, choose a larger one. Measure to check that the furniture will actually fit in! Double rear doors and a sliding door are very helpful when loading. Towels, covers and sheets can be used to protect items, and straps can be used to secure them. Check mileage limits and whether one-way rental is available if your old and new homes are far apart.

Zebrabox tip: The size and weight of the van affect how it drives. Rear visibility is limited, braking distances are longer and gear changes may feel less smooth. When manoeuvring, watch out for height restrictions and side mirrors and get help if needed. Keep a safe distance from the vehicle in front.

Dismantling furniture / packing

Relocating is a bit like a game of chess – it's all about strategy. That means packing everything you still need last.

That includes cutlery, plates, your favourite mug and kitchen roll. Pack boxes by category or by room. Start dismantling furniture at least two days before the move. Declutter anything you don't want to take with you in good time – at the latest the day before moving. Large or bulky items are considered bulky waste. Disposal ^{🗑️} is usually subject to a fee and depends on local regulations.

Important: Place heavy objects at the bottom of boxes and fill gaps with clothes, bedding, towels etc. Use proper packaging material such as tissue paper or bubble wrap instead of newspaper, as ink can leave marks!

Useful tips: Charge your cordless screwdriver. Put screws, hinges etc. in zip-lock bags and attach them to the relevant piece of furniture. Pack essential kitchen and bathroom items last (ideally on moving day itself).

Zebrabox tip: Move large items and furniture into the new home first and start reassembling them while the rest is still being transported.

Moving boxes

When moving house, the number of items to be packed is often underestimated. Make sure you have enough boxes and packaging material [📦].

Important: Depending on their quality, moving boxes can carry different weights – ideally no more than 15–20 kg per box.

Useful tips: Make a list of packed items and clearly label or colour-code each box (using pens or stickers) with its destination room. This ensures everything ends up in the right place. Boxes for the basement should stay at the bottom.

Zebrabox tip: Duvets, pillows, etc. can be transported in large bin bags or duvet covers.

Moving helpers

The more helping hands you have, the quicker and easier your move will be.

Important: It's better to have too many helpers than too few. Last-minute cancellations can happen even among close friends.

Useful tips: Assign one helper (a "Tetris expert") to organise the loading of the van and stacking of boxes and furniture.

Zebrabox tip: Communicate your moving date early. Send a reminder by email or WhatsApp a few days before the move – and keep your helpers motivated with good food and drinks on the day.

Fun and atmosphere

Moving house does not exactly have a reputation for being fun – unless it is a carnival parade. Still, it can be a positive experience and create happy memories.

Important: Breaks and refreshments help keep everyone *energised and in a good mood* ☺. Provide coffee, disposable cups, bread/croissants, fruit, sweets and enough drinks, ideally water (small bottles).

Useful tips: Music raises the spirits and helps to create a good atmosphere.

Zebrabox tip: Have pizza or finger food ready in your new home (don't forget vegetarian options!) and something to celebrate with. Don't forget the music!

Handing over the apartment(s)

On moving day, there is usually at least one apartment hand-over: the old apartment, and sometimes also the new one. Here are a few things to remember when moving house to avoid any hassle later on.

Important: Take meter readings (e.g. water, electricity, and possibly gas) in both properties. Once you have handed over the keys, you no longer have access rights.

Useful tips: Does everything fit? If space is tight, a room is not ready yet or the basement is damp, a *storage unit can be extremely useful* ☺, either short-term or long-term.

Zebrabox tip: Carry out the handover with a witness and in daylight to avoid issues later.

Things to remember after moving house:

Registering and re-registering

It is not only the municipality that usually needs to be informed within 14 days, but also health insurers, banks, insurance providers and other institutions. Address changes can be made *online via Swiss Post* ☺ (including mail forwarding) or via eUmzugCH. Contracts (e.g. electricity, internet, phone) need to be updated, transferred or cancelled.

Important: In many municipalities, registration and deregistration can be completed *online via eUmzugCH* ☺, although some still require an in-person visit.

Useful tips: Digital moving services are now available in many cantons and simplify the process.