

TOP TIPS ON UTILITIES

With deregulation on energy and telecom companies, it is now possible to switch the service providers at your current property or the one you are buying.

When choosing an energy and telecom company it's important to work out what sort of service you want, do not choose on price alone.

Go to www.uswitch.com for more information.

Listed below are things to look out for with your utilities when moving home.

Before you move

- Check out the best rates and service providers for your current property and the area you are moving into.
- You can let your telephone and energy company know in advance, but they cannot change your details until you actually own the property.
- It's best if you organise for the energy companies to come and read the meters on the day you move so that there are no arguments about the readings. You will need to give them 10 days notice to do this before you move.
- You can disconnect the phone on the day to avoid paying anyone else's bills in case of an error, but if you do this, let your buyer or your selling estate agent know so that they can take on the service without paying a connection fee.

Moving Day

- If you haven't had a meter reading taken, then don't forget to take this yourself and ring and write to the utility companies. Leave a note for the new owners, again so that any dispute can be sorted out quickly.
- As soon as you can, check that the phone in the new house has been connected and is now in your name.
- Check the readings on your gas and electricity and ring them through to the relevant companies to ensure that they agree with the ones left by the previous owners.

