

Once you are settled into your new home, you will need to consider furnishing your new home. There are two stages to this.

Large furniture

Things like couches, book-cases, tables and televisions are expensive, even second-hand. As per our earlier guidance, we would recommend using a website like Freecycle. As most people who leave home will not have a car, we recommend that you pick a day where you can get help (or even hire a van) and then pick up several different Freecycle items on the same day.

It may also be worth checking with local charities for any assistance.

Ultimately, for many of these items you will have to consider how essential they are, and to what extent you can 'make do' – for a little while - with an inferior-quality of item (for example, a smaller TV).

Smaller appliances and soft furnishings

This includes cutlery, crockery, towels and bedding, and also things like kettles and toasters.

If you were not able to keep some items when you left home, you will need to start from scratch. Again, Freecycle is an option but smaller items are less frequent on this site. The Gumtree website is worth checking, as are local charity shops.

The items here – even though they are smaller and cheaper – are often more important than large furniture items as they can make a much larger difference to how comfortable you feel in a new home.