

Expert Advice For Home Movers & Improvers





In July, the UK government launched a stamp duty holiday to help boost the property sector following the pandemic.

With a five month countdown to the stamp duty holiday ending at the end of March 2021, Attic Self Storage commissioned a survey to look into whether Brits are either being enticed to move or have decided to stay in their current homes and make improvements.

Research reveals that British homes are set for a year of transformations in 2021, as more than half of Brits (53%) said they would rather improve, than move over the next year - with only one in five Brits saying they would consider taking up the government's stamp duty holiday relief (20%).

With more Brits choosing to improve instead of move, British households are planning to spend an average of £6,531 on sprucing up and transforming their homes in 2021, with decorating being the top home improvement (69%) and grey being named as the top colour of choice.

Additionally, more than two in five (43%) Brits are looking to upgrade their garden and outside areas; 34% are buying new furniture; almost a fifth (18%) are looking to extend or build an outhouse and 14% a work hub.

It's no surprise that space was the top obstacle for both movers and improvers, with it being the number one reason (46%) for Brits opting to move over the next year; and for improvers - one in three is planning on creating more space by reworking a room (33%); and more than one in five (22%) are looking to create more storage space.

To support both movers and improvers, Attic has worked with seven leading experts around the UK to share their top tips and tricks.

MATTHEW SHAW

Interior Designer



About

Matthew is a professional interior design consultant and lifestyle blogger. He works closely with his clients to unlock the potential of their homes and focuses on creating a beautiful and relaxing home environment for them.

- Fetcham, Surrey

[Matthew Shaw Interior Styling](#)



Tips for Movers

Declutter your home before putting it on the market

My one top tip to anyone thinking of moving house is, before you go on the market, declutter your home! The majority of potential buyers looking for their next home don't always have the imagination to see past the clutter, and in many cases this could put them off buying. I'm not saying you have to start chucking everything out, but try to have a good clear out and pop some things into self storage while you try to sell - that way you can clear your house ready for buyers and you don't have to throw anything away.

Tips for Improvers

Create a hidden office space

More and more people are now working from home and, for many, separating work and home life can be tricky - especially if you don't have much space or are on a tight budget. My tip - why not create your own mini office? This can be as simple as converting a wardrobe or cupboard. Just by adding some simple shelving and a lick of paint, you'll be amazed at what you can achieve, and the great thing about this is that, at the end of the working day, you can close the doors and not feel like you're still in the office!

FREDERIC DE RYCKMAN DE BETZ

Self Storage & Space Saving Expert



About

Frederic de Ryckman de Betz launched Attic Self Storage in 2006. The first facility opened in Bow in 2008, and the second one in late 2016 in King's Cross. Fred is also a former Chairman of the SSA UK & Vice President of FEDESSA, and respected industry insider.

- West Malling, Kent

[Attic Self Storage](#)



Tips for Movers

Use self-storage to your advantage

To guard against any unexpected issues on your moving day, such as a delay in moving into your new property, it's always a great option to put your belongings into temporary storage until you work out plan B. Plus, if your new home needs any TLC before you officially move in, you can leave your stuff in storage so you and your contractors don't have to work around, or risk damaging, your belongings.

Tips for Improvers

Checking your contractor's credentials

Know who you're hiring! Whether you decide to hire a general contractor or individual subcontractors for the job, it's important to find the right team to complete any home renovation. While word-of-mouth recommendations from friends might be enough for some, you may also consider doing a thorough check on your contractor - looking into their licence, certificate of insurance and bond number - to be certain you're dealing with a professional. Additionally, using a self-storage company to store your furniture during the renovation process will give you peace of mind and space during what can be a stressful time.

VICKY SILVERTHORN

Professional Organiser



About

Vicky Silverthorn started her Professional Organising business 10 years ago. After 10 years working as a PA for a popstar and professional sportsmen, she decided she wanted to concentrate on decluttering and organising people's homes and spaces. Vicky and her team help organise and implement practical and simplistic systems, making spaces more streamlined and efficient. Her belief is that it starts at home; if your home is in shape, other elements of your life will follow.

- Richmond, London

[You Need a Vicky](#)



Tips for Movers

Sell furniture ahead of your move

Measure up the spaces in your new home to ensure what you have now will fit in the new place. Do this as early as possible, so you can arrange to sell pieces that will not fit in advance - this can also make you a bit of money ahead of the move! The last thing you want is the hassle of moving larger pieces into your home that will eventually need to be removed.

Tips for Improvers

Don't rush the job

The biggest mistake I see with improvers is people moving back into their homes too soon. Patience is key - and although it's so exciting to get back in, the chaos it can create is just not worth it. Having to move items back and forth and not being able to unpack into unfinished spaces is not my idea of fun!

CHLOE JONES

Interior & Renovations Blogger



About

Interior design has been a huge part of Chloe's life ever since she was a young girl. She enjoys every single stage of a project.

Specifically focused on innovative design, advanced technology and creating a beautiful home on a budget, she has blogged her entire journey on Instagram, where she has built up a successful platform of almost 20,000 to inspire others.

- Shropshire, UK

[*The Grey Build*](#)



Tips for Movers

Implement strict storage & labelling systems

Invest in quality storage solutions and labelling systems to ensure your move is as stress free and efficient as possible! Keep track of where and how you are storing certain furnishings and home items, and track this within a spreadsheet, noting the location of the item. Not only does this make your move-in day seamless, as you can quickly find exactly what you're looking for, but it also provides peace of mind that you haven't forgotten anything.

Tips for Improvers

Social media is your biggest free tool

Be open and realistic with your renovation choices - you will be pleasantly surprised at just how many home decor tasks you can carry out yourself (whilst saving a fortune on labour!) YouTube is free and accessible to everybody - this will be your biggest tool when looking to save money and sharpen a skill. Remember to think of all contingencies for any project, from what can go wrong and what technique is most efficient, to whether a professional will be needed to rectify anything, and what costs will be involved. We built a two-storey 56sqm extension after six months of research (thanks YouTube!).

GEORGE STRATIS

Estate Agent



About

George is the Managing Director of award-winning Strats Estates & Lettings Agents. With more than 15 years of experience in the field, George followed in his father's footsteps in Real Estate and has not looked back since. With an incredibly busy student accommodation department, Strats has been helping thousands of students find their perfect homes whilst at university since 2003. The agency also focuses on professional sales covering Hatfield, Welwyn Garden City and surrounding areas.

- Hatfield, Hertfordshire

[Strats Estates & Lettings](#)



Tips for Movers

Considerations before listing a property

Sellers must make sure they get their own property under offer and their finance in place before going out and viewing the next home. This way, if you see something you like and have an offer accepted, the property will be taken off the market. For buyers I would recommend that you keep in constant contact with the agents - the use of mailing lists to get properties under offer is becoming less required over time, so make sure that you contact the agents regularly and maintain a good relationship with them.

Tips for Improvers

Adding value to your home

Before employing an architect or interior designer, speak to a local estate agent to make sure that your improvements will add value and saleability to your home. The best way to add value is having additional rooms that are versatile and could be used as a home office or even a walk-in wardrobe. Don't rush the job!

NATASHA LEE

Mortgage & Protection Specialist



About

Natasha is a fully qualified and experienced CeMAP advisor who has over 6 years' experience working in the financial services industry. Following her success starting out in a leading high street bank, Natasha has since worked in London and Dubai providing financial advice to high net worth individuals. She prides herself on providing a high value, client-centered service and will always go the extra mile to help find a solution for each of her client's individual needs. Natasha currently works as a Mortgage Specialist at Premier Property Solutions.

- Hertfordshire & London

[Premier Property Solutions](#)



Tips for Movers

How to save on your mortgage agreement

If you already have a mortgage on the property you're selling you may be able to port (move this to your new property) in order to save on penalty fees. It is important to seek professional mortgage advice on this, as they will assess if it is best for you to stay with your current lender or switch to a new deal. They will also help you work out all the associated fees in moving home. With the current stamp duty removal up to £500,000 for first time buyers and home movers, people are taking advantage of savings up to £15,000.

Tips for Improvers

Seeking professional financial advice

It is a great idea to seek advice from a mortgage advisor as you may be able to borrow more on your mortgage, up to 85% of the value of your home, including your current mortgage. When considering what home improvements to make, you'll need to find the right balance between making your home somewhere you would like to live, and making it attractive to future buyers.

AUGUSTO RENZULLO

DIY Specialist



About

Augusto has over six years of experience in professional DIY work across North London. His services include home removals, building and dismantling flat pack furniture, and a variety of handy jobs around the house. Augusto relies on word of mouth, social media and returning customers for his consistent services, and his online reviews consistently praise his professionalism and efficiency.

- Potters Bar, Hertfordshire

[Man & Van Sevices](#)



Tips for Movers

Get your family & friends involved

When moving house or moving items into a storage facility, I would always recommend asking for help from friends or family first. Not only does this make it a fun experience, but it also works out MUCH cheaper. You can buy them a takeaway at the end and have a few beers or wine to celebrate - following all Covid-19 regulations of course.

Tips for Improvers

Think smart & savvy

Good storage is a key component of any kitchen. If you want to update yours on a budget, look for flat-pack cabinets - they're affordable and can be easily put together by a professional DIY-er. Alternatively, you can book an appointment with an in-store designer who'll help to draw up plans for your kitchen. If you need help taking accurate measurements, use a retailer that offers a design service.



020 8981 6800

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