

Your UAE moving checklist

What to sort out before you fly, in your first week and in your first month. Tick each box as you go. Works for Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Sharjah and Ajman.

STEP 1 - 2 TO 8 WEEKS BEFORE

Before you fly

- ☐ **Passport:** valid for at least 6 months, for you and every family member.
- ☐ **Attest your documents:** degree certificates, marriage certificate and children's birth certificates. Attest them in your home country and at the UAE embassy there. You will need them for your work permit, family visa and school admission.
- ☐ **School records:** last 2 years of reports, transfer or leaving certificate, and vaccination records for each child. Apply to schools early, as good seats fill fast.
- ☐ **Offer letter check:** confirm salary, housing allowance, flights, medical cover and who pays for family visas. Put it in writing.
- ☐ **Cash for month one:** first rent cheque, 5% deposit, about 5% agency fee, DEWA or SEWA deposit (about AED 2,000 for a flat, 4,000 for a villa) and furniture. Use the calculator to get your number.
- ☐ **Driving licence:** check if your licence can be converted in the UAE. Licences from many countries are not on the list, so you may need driving lessons and a test.
- ☐ **Medical:** carry prescriptions and a doctor's letter for any regular medicine, and check it is allowed in the UAE.
- ☐ **Bank:** tell your home bank you are moving and keep one card that works abroad.

STEP 2 - DAYS 1 TO 7

Your first week

- ☐ **Mobile SIM:** buy a local SIM from du or e& (Etisalat) with your passport. You need a UAE number for almost everything.
- ☐ **Medical fitness test:** done at an approved health centre. Your employer or PRO usually books it.
- ☐ **Emirates ID:** give fingerprints (biometrics) at an ICP or Amer centre when asked. Keep the application receipt.
- ☐ **Residence visa:** after the medical and Emirates ID, your residence visa is issued. Check every detail on it.
- ☐ **Temporary stay:** book 2 to 4 weeks in a serviced flat so you are not rushed into a bad tenancy.
- ☐ **Salary account:** open a bank account once your Emirates ID application is in. Many banks allow a digital opening.
- ☐ **Apps to install:** UAE Pass, your bank app, RTA (Dubai) or Darb (Abu Dhabi), and the utility app for your emirate.

STEP 3 - WEEKS 2 TO 4**Your first month**

- ☐ **Find a home:** view at least 5 places. Ask about the number of cheques, chiller or cooling fees, parking and maintenance before you pay.
- ☐ **Register the lease:** Ejari in Dubai, Tawtheeq in Abu Dhabi, attestation in Sharjah, Tasdeeq in Ajman. You need it for utilities and family visas.
- ☐ **Utilities and internet:** open your DEWA, ADDC, SEWA or Etihad WE account, pay the deposit and book internet installation.
- ☐ **Family visas:** once your visa, lease and salary are in place, sponsor your spouse and children. Check the current minimum salary rule (commonly AED 4,000, or AED 3,000 plus accommodation).
- ☐ **Health insurance:** your employer covers you. In most emirates you must buy cover for your spouse and children yourself.
- ☐ **School admission:** confirm the seat, pay registration and the first term, and order uniforms and books.
- ☐ **Car:** decide lease or buy, get insurance and register for Salik (Dubai) or Darb (Abu Dhabi) tolls.
- ☐ **Budget review:** compare what you actually spent with your estimate and adjust your monthly plan.

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