



Furniture Rental

Furnished or Unfurnished – the Key Question

A question that is often asked when relocating staff to the UK is whether to rent furnished or unfurnished property. Historically, the UK was one of the few countries in the world where furnished accommodation was available in abundance. Recently, however, there has been a move away from this practice and more and more property is offered as unfurnished. As there is no real pricing differential between the two, this has subsequently resulted in a dearth of quality furnished accommodation, especially in many of the more desirable expatriate communities.

So, left with the possibility of renting an unfurnished property, what next?

Shipping or Rental – Another Key Question

Depending on the length of assignment, most companies will have a relocation policy that includes the benefit of shipping furniture from the home country. With the changing nature of assignments, there has been an increase in the number of shorter-term relocation contracts. As a result, the shipment of household goods is not always a viable option leaving corporates now having to find alternative furnishing solutions.

Cost Savings with Rental

It is widely recognised that renting furniture is a cost effective relocation alternative. Shipping involves fixed costs on both the outward and return journeys. Add to this the cost of insurance, as well as necessary temporary accommodation costs whilst goods are in transit and the 'hidden' costs of shipping really begin to add up.

In Europe, people typically reside in smaller living accommodation than in America, for example. The quantity of furniture to be shipped and its relative size, therefore, are often not appropriate for the new destination. Additional storage then becomes a key requirement and has a further impact on the real cost of shipping.

Furniture rental on the other hand, spreads the cost over the length of an assignment and invaluable enables individuals to move into their new home from day one of their assignment. Rental rates can be varied but are based on the type and quantity of furniture selected, as well as the length of contract required.

Furniture rental companies offer individually tailored packages. They guide you through the selection of your furniture, making sure that you get the most value from your budget. Everything will be taken care of right down to the installation of the last teaspoon.

Whilst some corporates will still want to maintain a shipping policy, cost savings can still be achieved with interim furniture rental contracts. As a cost effective alternative to temporary accommodation whilst goods are in transit, furniture rental can enable relocatees to move into their new property and start adapting to their new surroundings from day one.