



**Britannia**  
Movers



Canada

ALL THE RIGHT MOVES



# Importing Goods to Canada



## Importing Personal Effects

Shipments of household goods and personal effects are in the most part allowed duty free entry, provided that a valid entry Visa is held, and the goods have been owned and used for at least six months prior to importation. This rule is waived for returning residents who have lived abroad for five years or more.

It is not possible to have your consignment cleared through customs before you arrive in the country. It is a requirement for both new residents and returning Canadian Nationals to be present for formal Customs clearance. Your local Britannia Member will be able to provide further information regarding the clearance procedures.

## Documentation

Britannia and our agents will assist you to complete the customs formalities. To assist us with this we will need a copy of your passport (and visa if applicable). Our Britannia agents will supply you with the appropriate import documentation before the arrival of your goods which you must complete to facilitate clearance. To avoid additional charges, it is essential that documentation is completed and returned promptly.



## Prohibitions And Restrictions

The following items are prohibited or restricted and we strongly advise you not to ship them in your consignment:

- Firearms, ammunition & weapons
- Inflammable goods & substances
- Plants, plant material & animal products
- Foodstuffs, perishables or otherwise
- Alcohol, tobacco & narcotics
- Objectionable and indecent material

## Transit Times

Groupage or shared load consignments usually take 12 to 14 weeks door to door. However, this can vary depending on the peak (summer) and low (winter) season at both at origin and destination, volumes being shipped, customs or immigration delays and prevailing weather conditions.

Sole use containers usually take 8 to 9 weeks door to door, dependant on the final destination in Canada. There is a weekly service to all major ports (subject to availability).

## Tracking Consignment

All groupage consignments will be bar coded before they are loaded into the shipping container. This will ensure that no items are left at origin and allow Britannia to check the status of your goods in transit.

## Additional Services

Britannia can provide a variety of complimentary services to make your moving experience as efficient and easy as possible, from international foreign exchange to helping you relocate your family's pets. For further information about Britannia's partner companies please scan this QR code.







# Welcome to Britannia in Canada

## Motor Vehicles

Used or second-hand vehicles are generally prohibited from importation into Canada. However, there are some exceptions to these rules. For example, if you are on a work visa then your vehicle can be imported provided it is exported again once your work visa expires, or you obtain permanent residence status. If you are shipping a car, you will need to attend Customs in person to complete the formalities.

Furthermore, if you are a returning resident then any single item that you are importing – including vehicles – valued at over CAN\$10,000 will be subject to duty and taxes on the excess amount. Shipping motor vehicles to Canada is complex, so we recommend that you seek guidance from your local Britannia office.

## Customs Clearance

Customs clearance for all consignments requires the presence of the shipper. As such, clients must meet in person at the nearest customs office to attend an interview with CBSA (Canada Border Services Agency).

Consignments are normally released shortly after your visit to customs, however the time taken to clear goods through customs can be affected by Government policy, X-raying of goods, physical inspection, volume of traffic and the levy of any import duties or taxes. Charges raised by customs or quarantine officials will be paid for by our Britannia agents, who will seek reimbursement from yourselves prior to delivery.



[www.britannia-movers.co.uk](http://www.britannia-movers.co.uk)

## Britannia in Canada

Britannia has established a long-standing and successful relationship with a network of dedicated removers, who will assist you with your destination services. Their full contact details will be provided at the time of the forwarding of your consignment.

Our agents are part of our extended Britannia family, and we meet with them on a regular basis to ensure high standards of service are maintained.

## Storage

Should you require storage prior to delivery this can be arranged. You should expect to pay a one-off storage handling fee plus a monthly storage charge. Please note that these charges are payable locally. It is vitally important that you ensure that your marine insurance policy is extended for the period of the storage.

## Destination Services

Following customs clearance your consignment will be delivered to your home, on a mutually convenient date - please note this is only for customers who have paid for a 'Door to Door' service. Goods will be delivered into your new home and placed in the relevant rooms as directed by you.

Professionally wrapped and packed goods will be unwrapped, and cartons unpacked onto a flat surface. All used packing materials will be removed from site on the delivery day. You can request not to have some, or all of the professionally packed items unpacked or unwrapped, although there may be insurance implications should you choose this option.

*\* Any transit times provided should be considered only as a guide and cannot be guaranteed. Shipping can be subject to delays which are beyond our control.*

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# Your Moving Guide Checklist

## Three Months Before

- Arrange for a pre-move survey with Britannia
- Have a clear idea what you would like to take with you
- Arrange for a quote for the transportation of your family pet

## Six Weeks Before

- Book move date and agree moving plan
- Make a list of any items to be moved which will need particular care
- Book pet transport carrier and confirm logistics
- Advise of new school addresses so that education records can be passed on quickly
- Doctor – de-register. If undergoing hospital treatment, notify a new doctor as soon as possible

## Four Weeks Before

- Advise schools/nurseries of movement and obtain records
- Cancel memberships including gym, library etc
- Arrange financial affairs: foreign exchange, pension transfers and bank accounts

## Three Weeks Before

- Confirm childcare arrangements for moving day
- Plan the best way to look after pets on moving day and confirm itinerary for transportation
- Clear out unwanted belongings
- Start using up food from the freezer

## Two Weeks Before

- Contact service providers to arrange final accounts and meter readings
- Telecoms/digital/cable TV provider
- Electricity supplier
- Gas/Oil supplier
- Water Rates
- Local Council Taxes
- Credit card/store card or credit card protection companies
- TV Licence
- Notify all hire purchase/lease/standing orders or loans companies

## Notify plans of movement:

- Dentist
- Optician
- Amend insurance cover on buildings, household contents, motor, life etc
- National Insurance
- Child Benefit
- Motor vehicle registration
- Driving Licence (DVLA)
- Pension company
- Redirection of mail via the Post Office (visit your local Post Office for details)
- Send out change of address cards to friends, relatives, clubs, and organisations
- Organise the disconnection and reconnection of domestic appliances: washing machine, cooker, dishwasher

## Two Days Before

- Defrost the fridge and freezer
- Cancel any regular deliveries (milk / newspapers)

## The Day Before

- Check drawers and trunks/chests for any fragile items
- Take down curtains and blinds
- Put together a pile of 'do not remove' essentials: passports, tickets, itineraries, coats, handbags, snacks, cleaning materials
- Pack small valuables separately and leave with essentials pile e.g. jewellery, watches, money, bonds, coins, stamps etc
- Separate your airfreight consignment from your sea freight if applicable

## The Big Day

- Confirm service meter readings and keep a spare copy of readings
- Switch off power and water supplies (if necessary)
- Lock all windows and doors
- Drop keys off with estate agent
- Confirm you have provided all required documentation for your sea freight/airfreight consignment

