

## Moving Home – Safety and Security Considerations



Portugal is a great place to live, with friendly people, good climate, good food, wine and beautiful countryside.

In deciding where to live and what type of property it is important to consider safety and security in order to protect your investment and ensure your well-being and quality of life.

If choosing a rural property consider distance from police, ambulance and fire services and how long they will take to reach you in an emergency. Do they know the location of the house? Can you communicate in Portuguese? If so, or can learn it, fine, but if not this is an important factor to consider especially in emergency situations.

Consider the property's likely resilience to the extreme weather that we can experience here in Portugal. Many people may view a lovely house whilst on a summer holiday, but when it comes to winter it may be in an area liable to flooding.

Although the crime level is one of the lowest in Europe, some areas may have some local crime problems. A good way to check is to ask people in the area such as the local bar.

Getting to know neighbours is important in ensuring trouble-free relationships in the future. Of course neighbours can change, but in rural villages they and their families may have been there for generations. Most problems are due to the breakdown of relationships with neighbours such as barking dogs, or in urban areas parking and noise pollution.

When viewing a property check if it has previously been broken into, as this sort of information may not be volunteered by the agent concerned. Ask around.

A matter often overlooked is the sustainability of water supply. Does it have a cisterna, borehole or town water? What happens if the borehole fails? Is there a local water supplier? Is there a sewage system?

Rural fires are an ever-increasing problem. Laws are in place to ensure that at least 50 metres around your home is properly managed to reduce the spread of fires to your home. Check that you are physically able to do this, or if not that you have the resources to pay others to help.

When moving remember to change locks on external doors, especially if it has previously been rented

Taking time to research and consider these issue will help avoid problems later on and ensure that you chose a location and home which is right for you.

