



MOVING HOUSE

“ Everything you need to know about moving house - from initial planning to making sure you, your family and your possessions survive the moving process. ”



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TOP TIPS FOR

PACKING

“ Pack your house properly for your move so that you'll save time and avoid the most common mistakes that can lead to damage. ”

If you've moved house before you'll already understand just how labourious and time consuming the packing process can be. Packing up your house in preparation for your big move might be a painful task to undertake, but it's crucial that you get it right. Cutting corners or skimping on proper packing supplies can lead to irreparable damage to your belongings.

START EARLY

Packing your cartons can take time and the last thing you want is to get stressed by leaving all your packing to the last minute, when there are so many other things that you need to do before the move. Start preparing for your move early. Pack everything you can in advance, whilst leaving out a few necessities until the last minute like your First Aid Kit, a few plates, mugs, cutlery, cleaning supplies, coffee, sugar and a kettle.

LABEL EVERYTHING

If you're moving interstate or some distance, it is likely that your goods will not be the only goods on the truck and sometimes, depending on where you are moving from and to, your furniture might be delivered in a different removalist's truck to the one which picks up your goods. Therefore it is important that you clearly label every box that will be moved. Write your name, job number, and delivery suburb on the boxes, and also mark if the goods are fragile.

NOTHING BUT THE BEST

Use proper removalist cartons where possible. Supermarket boxes, or flimsy cartons with no lids, are far more susceptible to damage during your move. Plastic storage boxes may appear sturdy but they often weaken or get cracked due to the weight inside them.

Your local storage facility will stock furniture cartons, and generally they will sell second-hand removal cartons, which will save you some money as well.

It's important to use packing tape when sealing your boxes. Most other tapes stretch too much or won't adhere properly to your cartons. The last thing you want is for all your hard work packing to go to waste when your box breaks or contents fall out the bottom!

WHAT TO BOX

Smaller, loose items can be lost or broken in transit. A general rule of thumb is, that if it can be boxed, then it probably should be.

You should also remove light bulbs from lamps and the plate from your microwave and box them separately.

BACK BREAKERS

If you are packing heavy items such as books, it is better to pack these in smaller Book/Wine Cartons (30 x 40 x 40cm). If you pack books at the bottom of larger cartons they are likely to fall out or become difficult to carry.

YOU CAN'T TRUST NEWSPAPERS

If you're not careful, newspapers can leave grubby marks on all your precious belongings. Use butchers paper, or unprinted newspaper instead.

You can use newspapers to fill empty space in your moving boxes, so long as you wrap your items in unprinted paper first. If you do use newspaper to 'pad-out' your boxes, you might want to wear gloves and get rid of as much newspaper as possible when you start unpacking to prevent the ink from transferring.

PACKING YOUR BAGS

Clothes and manchester are fine to pack in bags. Suitcases, or large "Striped" bags, are ideal. Plastic bags are okay to pack, but you must "double bag", as they can tear in transit.

PACKING MOVING BOXES

With regard to your fragile items, such as glassware and crockery, it is best to wrap each piece individually and pack them upside-down in the cartons. They are far less susceptible to crushing this way.

Wrap your plates in bundles of 5, with paper separating each plate and overhanging paper wrapped around the sides. Then you should pack each bundle on its side in the carton. Make sure you line all cartons containing fragile items with crushed paper on the top, bottom and sides.

You should use packing tape to seal both the top and bottom of every box. Taping from corner to corner, in an X shape, will ensure that your boxes can support the weight of their contents.

PACKING LARGER ITEMS

Larger Items, such as tables, chairs and couches, and other items that are too large to put in a box will be wrapped in furniture removal pads by the furniture removalist when they are loading your job.

OTHER TIPS

- Don't pack important documents (passports, airline tickets, travel visa's, birth certificates, property deeds, etc.), expensive jewellery and other goods that are irreplaceable. These items are best carried with you for your peace of mind.
- Empty all drawers and wardrobes. If left packed they may be too heavy to lift and more prone to damage in transit.
- Empty fuel from any lawn mowers, whipper snippers, etc.
- Ensure that all appliances are clean and dry to prevent nasty leaks spreading in the truck.
- Dry clothes completely before they're packed.
- Wrap any sharp objects to prevent damage or injury.
- Water any potplants several days before the move is scheduled to avoid leaks. ***Transporting plants, animals and other organic matter may be limited by interstate quarantine restrictions***, so check regulations for the state or territory you're moving from and to with your removalist and/or the appropriate regulatory body.





THE IMPORTANCE OF LABELLING

“ Clear and correct labelling your possessions in preparation for your big move is as important as properly addressing mail that you would send through the regular post. ”

Ensure that your belongings don't get misplaced or damaged when moving house with lists and labels!

Utilizing cardboard boxes to protect your possessions is only the first half of the packing for your furniture removal; stickers, labels, and a household inventory list allow you to obtain a higher level of organisation when coordinating your move.

It is crucial that the contents of your moving cartons are detailed accurately so that the furniture removalists are aware of what they are moving. Consequently, knowing what items are contained in each removal carton will assist your furniture removalists in creating an efficient and more effective move.

When labelling each box, place the sticker in a location that is easily perceivable for the furniture removalists, the more the better! Labelling a box more than once means that it will be easier to identify and the contents within it can be readily communicated.

Each label should display the following information:

- An arrow indicating whether the box should be kept upright, and if so, in which direction;
- A clear instruction to take care with delicate items by labelling box's with the word 'FRAGILE';
- A description of the boxes contents;
- Information about where the carton should be delivered once it has reached its destination along with your name, job number and delivery address and any other important details of your move.

Whilst both stickers and simply writing on the package are sufficient methods in labelling your removal boxes, the former lends itself to the possibility of colour coding and higher levels of organisation. A combination of stickers and writing with permanent marker would be ideal, as the latter protects you in the incident of misplaced information through the accidental loss of a sticker or label in the journey from one destination to another.

Creating lists while packing for your furniture removal can aid you in

recalling precisely where everything is located.

If you are able to identify the contents of each removal carton then in the unlikely occurrence of a misplaced carton, you'll find yourself equipped with the relevant knowledge that will assist us in locating any missing box. This will also help you when unpacking in your new house as you'll know exactly where to find the items that you are looking for.

For the aforementioned reasons, it is an excellent idea to make labels and lists when moving house – it doesn't impose on your time greatly and can make your furniture removal far more organised.



MOVING DAY

“ The day has come to move house! You’ve been packing for an eternity and the removalist’s will be arriving soon. So what’s your role in the next stage of the furniture removal process? ”

SAFETY SHOULD BE YOUR PRIORITY

While it’s good to encourage your kids to be part of the process of moving house, it’s best to keep children and babies away on moving day. There’s a lot of activity going on and you’re likely to be quite distracted.

Apart from the obvious disruptions to your child’s schedule, there’s likely to be more hazards around your house on moving day than usual (cleaning products, scissors, people carrying heavy objects, etc.) and it’s best not to expose your kids to them. Your doors will be open for extended periods of time also, so keeping an eye on children will be a challenge.

If you can’t find anyone to look after your kids make sure that they have a safe area allocated especially for them and that someone is available to actively supervise them.

Scout out your house to ensure that there are no unnecessary hazards around your property that could harm you, your family, or your furniture removalists.

Your removalists will likely be carting around heavy and awkward objects and won’t be familiar with your house. It’s important to keep clear pathways to minimise tripping hazards. For this reason it’s best to place your boxes along edges of rooms as you pack them.

WHAT PART SHOULD YOU PLAY ON MOVING DAY?

If you’re in an area where there is limited parking, you should get out as early as possible to secure enough spaces for the truck. You can use cars or witches hats to reserve the spaces. Parking should be as close as possible to the building and the amount of space required can vary. **Parking limitations and any other access issue should be discussed with your furniture removalists as early as possible.**

If your moving house locally you might be on an hourly rate. Some furniture removalist’s will allow you to carry goods out to the truck to speed up the process and save you some money. That’s fine, but go at your own pace. Don’t rush it, and don’t overdo it. Stick to the smaller, more manageable items as much as possible. Moving furniture is physically demanding work. Don’t risk injury to yourself or damage to your furniture by getting overenthusiastic!

One of your main responsibilities is to oversee the loading process to make sure that your furniture removalist’s load everything they’re supposed to and to leave anything that they’re not.

It’s best to allocate some separate space for items that aren’t to be collected and clearly label such items with “Don’t Move This”. Discuss this with your furniture removalist before they start the loading process.

Do a thorough final check of all rooms, cupboards and other storage spaces before the furniture removalists leave. Don’t forget the shed and garage! It can be helpful to have someone else do a walk-through with you. A fresh pair of eyes may discover anything you’ve missed.

It can be helpful to have your inventory on hand to check things off the list as they’re loaded onto the moving truck. This way you’ll soon discover anything that’s not been loaded.

THE CLEAN UP

You should keep some essential cleaning products out for after the furniture removalist’s departure. It’s best to clean your floors and other surfaces after the furniture removalists have left. It’s easier to get everything clean when there’s nothing in the way.

Where possible, it’s best to book any professional carpet cleaning services for the day following your move. This way you’ll know that everything will be out of the way and you’ll have had a chance to clean other surfaces before they come.

DEALING WITH THE ELEMENTS

Bad weather is a fact of life. To maintain client’s schedules, as well as their own, furniture removalists will load and unload - rain, hail or shine.

It may be tempting to try to speed up the removal process on moving day, especially if you’re booking is made on an hourly rate. You should never try and speed the process up by placing any of your furniture or boxes outside, exposed to the elements. If there’s any sort of delay or unexpected turn in the weather you could find yourself scrambling to get everything under cover. You’re also increasing the risk of theft of your prized possessions.

Your furniture removalists will not be able to remove their shoes every time they enter your house - they’ll be hard to get back on when carrying your fridge! If rain is expected, or it’s been raining recently, you can cover your carpets and rugs with plastic drop sheets or some other form of protection. Laying more mats at the front and back door to your house can also help to reduce the chance of staining your carpets. **It’s important to ensure that any floor protection you lay down isn’t a tripping hazard.**





COPING WITH MOVING STRESS

“ Moving house - some people argue that it's the most stressful thing that anyone can do. While that is probably pretty close to the truth, there are lots of ways to reduce the stress and anxiety of moving house. ”

Getting Yourself Organised

Managing your time effectively when moving house can help to alleviate the stress of moving. Make a list of all the things that you need to do, then divide them up and allocate them to the weeks leading up to your move, allowing yourself enough days to accomplish everything on that week's list.

Cut the Clutter!

Clearing your house of all the unnecessary extras will help you be, and feel, more organised. It will also mean that when you start packing, you'll only be packing the items that you need to. There's no point packing items that will just be thrown out once you have moved, it can be frustrating and time consuming.

Eliminating clutter also helps you relieve yourself of some of the old things that might have been holding you back. The process of eliminating old belongings from your possession will assist you in transitioning from one stage of your life to the next, leaving the past in the past and looking forward to the future.

Get Help When You Need It

Most people find little pleasure in calling for assistance with their move if they are finding it too difficult to coordinate everything on their own. Your loved ones have probably moved at least once in their life and can understand how trying this stressful time can be. Ask friends and family if they can come over for a few hours and help you pack. If you're moving far away, this could be one of the last chances you have to spend time together for a while and they'll likely appreciate some extra time with you before you move.

Saying Your Farewells

Parting from a place that you've come to call home can be a stressful and emotional experience. Don't ignore the feelings of loss, sadness and anxiety that sometimes accompany the other feelings associated with moving away from your house, friends and family. Allow yourself time to say goodbye. Throw a farewell party, or invite friends over for dinner. Take an hour to walk through your neighbourhood and visit your favourite places. Allow yourself to relive the memories and feel the emotions they elicit.

Plan Some R&R

When moving house, it's all too easy to spend long days packing boxes and cleaning the house, forgetting entirely to take care of yourself.

Neglecting yourself over the course of moving house can often result in more stress, both emotionally and physically. While it may seem like you're being efficient with your time, by making personal sacrifices for the sake of the move, you're also neglecting the most

important thing that is moving: yourself!

Allocate some time in your task list for some chill out time. Allow yourself treats like having dinner out with friends and family, visiting your favourite coffee or book shop, or seeing a movie. It doesn't need to be a huge extravagant event, just something small that ensures you're taking time out from the hectic moving process to balance yourself, stop, breathe and release the anxiety.

Kids require special handling during a move; they notice a lot more than we think they do and will know when their parents are stressed out. They'll need time from you, perhaps more so than usual. The adjustments and changes can be daunting and require patience, understanding and attention. This may be difficult to give if you are putting all your energy into moving house and not enough into the people behind it all!

Don't Worry if Your Plans Fall Through

Despite your best efforts in organising and preparing everything to the best of your ability, things still go wrong. Unforeseeable obstacles and events will happen, so you need to be flexible and allow yourself some extra breathing room to deal with these problems. Don't stress about extraneous variables that are beyond your control, it will only upset you and a solution is more difficult to come across when you are anxious and stressed out. Make allowances in your task list for unforeseen events and delays. Then, in the case that things do go wrong, you have some room to breathe and work through the issue. And if everything goes smoothly then these days can be used to treat yourself!

Plan B

A full back-up plan may not be necessary, but having a list of options in case some things don't fall into place as you have planned will avoid panic and fretting setting in. Leave a few days on either end of your move out/move in day should your cleaners not show up, or if there are problems with the real estate agencies that you are operating through. These events are rare, but it's worthwhile accounting for them.

Prepare to Feel Out of Sorts

You're going to be living in disarray for some time once you have settled into the new house; boxes will be everywhere and things will feel out of control. Just remember to keep on track by continually referring to your task list so you know that you are on track for your move and have achieved a great deal already.

Remember that it might take some time for your new house to feel like home. As you unpack, and as the next chapter of your life unfolds you will find that it's only a matter of time before things start feeling normal again.



MAKE MOVING HOUSE AN ADVENTURE FOR YOUR KIDS

“ It’s perfectly natural to be worried about your kids when you’re moving house. It can be even more stressful when you move to a completely new area or state. Moving house is usually stressful for adults, but moving can be an especially upsetting time for kids. ”

MAKE MOVING HOUSE WITH KIDS CHILDREN PLAY

- Try to turn the packing of your kid’s belongings into fun and exciting games.
- Give your kids some jobs to do in the lead up to your move - as long as the tasks are age appropriate.
- Hiding some treasures in your moving boxes can add to the excitement of getting to your new house and starting the unpacking process.
- Don’t pack ‘blankie’ and ‘teddy’ (or other of your children’s favourites) until last. Try and keep some of your kid’s favourite toys and games out even after the furniture removalists truck has gone so your kids can be occupied until they start unpacking at your new home.
- While it may be a safer option to keep your kids away during the packing process, wherever possible, it’s good to have your kids around and participating in the packing process. It’ll help them to get some closure and know that all their familiar and favourite items won’t be left behind.
- It’s important to try and keep as much of a normal routine as possible both before and after your move. Keeping some regularity in your kid’s schedule or routine is important - there’s already a lot of change to deal with at this time.
- Try getting your kid’s settled into and participating in their new community as soon as possible. Signing them up for local sporting clubs and other groups is a good way for them to make new friends - you might even make some new ones yourself!
- Take the time to ask the questions about how your kid’s are feeling and to find out whether they are making new friends. Try to be sympathetic to their situation and reassure them that things will only continue to get better with time.
- It can be a good idea to bring your kids along and participating when finding new schools. Giving your kids a sense of ownership in the entire moving process may stop them from kicking and screaming throughout the move.
- Have your kids ever moved before? They may not have a full grasp over what moving entails. They may not understand that their toys and pets are coming along too. They may not understand that their friends will be left behind. To avoid minimise any shock to your kid’s try and be clear about what they should expect from the move.
- Encourage your kids to take some pictures of your new house and surrounds to school for ‘show-and-tell’ in the lead up to the move. Sharing their new and exciting adventure to their friends can help get your kids on board and looking forward moving day.
- Yes, you’re likely to be overwhelmed and stressed about your big move yourself. It’s understandable. So many things to organise. So many ‘unknowns’. However hard it may be, try and stay positive and up-beat about your ‘big adventure’ around your kids. Any negativity that you’re feeling about moving will easily transfer to your kids - and that’s only going to make things tougher for everyone.
- You will be busy in the days surrounding your move, but it’s important that you make time for your kids to say goodbye to their friends. Throwing a goodbye picnic, or a party in a place other than your half-packed house, will help your kids get some closure and get most of your goodbye’s done in one hit.
- When it comes to telling your kids about the move, it’s certainly a case of ‘the earlier, the better’. The sooner that you communicate with your children about moving, the less shock it will mean for them and the easier it will be to get them excited about their big adventure.
- Most important of all: don’t get caught up in the move yourself and try to be patient. Moving house can really be stressful for everyone - especially for your kids.

MOVING WITH BABIES

“ By themselves, many people would say that moving house and looking after an infant or toddler are two of the most demanding challenges you’ll ever undertake. So what if you have to deal with both at the same time? With a little planning, it can be done! ”



Moving house can be quite a stressful time. So, if you have a baby, its best to be prepared to minimise any additional moving stresses. Below is a list of useful tips which may come in handy if you’re a new parent and you’re moving with babies or toddlers.

DON'T FORGET ABOUT YOU

There’s a lot happening at this time. Looking after a baby is hard work at the best of times. Looking after a baby while moving can be even more overwhelming.

Babies are sponges - they pick up every emotion that you’re feeling. The extra stress you’re under when moving transfers easily to your baby. Making sure that you’re okay is important.

Try and make some time for yourself to unwind. Take as much advantage of your support network of family and friends as possible over the course of the moving process. You may be moving away from your support network, so try and develop a new one in your new community as soon as possible.

If you’re feeling too overwhelmed by it all don’t try and hide it away. You’ll need to talk it out with friends, family or seek proper medical advice.

PREPARATION IS YOUR KEY TO SUCCESS

Start packing early to avoid everything being done at the last minute. This will cause minimal disruption to your baby’s routine.

Wash baby’s clothes a few days prior to your move so that they are completely dry for the big move, making sure to keep enough out while your goods are on the furniture removalists truck.

Pack a special “handy pack” for the baby, and carry this with you. It should include nappies and spare clothing that the baby will need before your furniture removalist arrives with all your goods.

Don’t pack away your baby’s security items, like their ‘blankie’ or ‘teddy’. Something so familiar can make baby feel more safe with all the disruption brought on by the move and will help them adjust more quickly when moving in.

Keep the stroller with you, take it in your car or on the plane, so that you are ready to move around with your baby as soon as you arrive at your new house.

MINIMISE HAZARDS

When moving home, objects that are usually kept out of arms reach, can be accidentally left lying around. Scissors, cleaning products, even kitchen pantry items can pose potential dangers for children if misused or eaten. Make sure that these items and anything that

could cause a threat to babies are kept well out of reach at all times.

Keep your baby’s car restraints in your car or with you. You don’t want to be stranded without being able to transport your baby around, if your removalist’s truck is delayed with all of your furniture.

Be sure to keep your pets away from your baby over the course of the move and after you’ve moved in. Pets can get quite stressed with the change of environment and even the most placid of pets can become a little more snappy at this time.

PLANNING FOR YOUR BABY’S NEW HOME

When choosing your new home, take into consideration whether there are schools and kindergartens in the area you plan to move to. Also, are there any play centres nearby? Enquire about mothers groups as well. Its a great way to meet new people in the area, and find out about those tucked away local restaurant gems in the area.

As soon as you choose your new home, be sure to contact local child care centres. Sometimes they have long waiting lists - this also applies to schools for older children.

Locate your new local family doctor and Maternal and Child Healthcare centre as soon as possible. You’ll need to remember to keep your baby’s medical records with you so your baby’s doctor and nurse can get up to speed on your baby’s history and needs.

MOVING DAY

If possible, it’s best to have someone else look after your baby on moving day. There’s a lot of noise, disruption and hazards to account for on moving day.

You’ll be juggling a million tasks to make sure that the move goes off without a hitch and it’ll be difficult for you to give your baby the attention it’ll need. There’s probably a few people who will jump at the chance to have a bit more time with your baby before it goes on it’s big adventure!

Follow these tips for a successful move with an infant or toddler - after all, a happy bubby means a happy mummy and daddy!





LETTING PEOPLE KNOW YOU'RE MOVING

“ Letting people know when you're moving house doesn't just mean that future residents in your old house won't get annoyed about receiving your mail, it'll also help you avoid fines from some regulatory bodies! ”

Preparing to move house can be a lengthy process, and sometimes we forget that it is about more than just booking furniture removalists to move our furniture. With so many little tasks to take care of, it is not uncommon for one of the key steps to be overlooked: letting people know you're moving!

Below are some tips to identify people who'll need to know about your upcoming move and different ways that you can let them know.

WHO NEEDS TO KNOW

While some of the people you need to inform of your removal, such as friends and family, seem obvious there are many other organisations that may need to be notified of your upcoming move including:

- Your state road authority to update your license and registration;

- Update your electoral role details;
- Employer and colleagues;
- Medicare;
- Centrelink;
- The Australian Taxation Office;
- Your bank, credit union and loan providers;
- Gas providers;
- Electricity providers;
- Water authorities;
- Telecommunication service providers (landline, mobile, internet);
- Insurance providers for home, contents, car, boat, health and ambulance cover;
- Superannuation providers;
- Senior or pensioner card issuing authorities;
- The Department of Veterans Affairs;
- Health professionals (doctor, dentist physio, optometrist, etc);
- Kids' school;
- If you have pets you might need to contact your vet, update your pet's registration details with local council and update the Microchip Register;
- Local Libraries;
- Newspaper and magazine subscription services;
- Loyalty programs (frequent flyer's, department stores, etc);
- Pay TV provider.

IDENTIFYING WHO ELSE NEEDS TO KNOW

The list above doesn't cover everyone who should know that you're moving house. So how do you identify other people, business' and authorities that may need to know?

- In the weeks or months before you're scheduled to move house keep a list of all incoming mail. It's the easiest way to know who is already contacting you;
- Keep an eye out for electronic statements and promotions delivered via email. You may have elected to receive these on-line rather than via regular mail, but these companies or authorities may still need to know about your move;

- Look at your bank and credit card statements to see who's charging you on a regular or semi-regular basis. You don't always receive statements or invoices via regular mail from those you do business with. If you're signed up for internet banking it's usually simple to add a filter on a long transaction list to look at debits only over an extended period, to see who's charging you;

Once you've established who you need to inform of your move, you can set about letting them know.

WAYS TO GET THE MESSAGE OUT

A bulk email to everyone in your contact list may allow you to get the word out quickly, and more personal emails can be directed to close friends and family.

Many services and organisations will allow you to notify them of your move online, and email templates are available to assist you with notifying those who don't!

Social networking sites may also be useful in informing people of your move, just remember to use private messages to let those you are close to know where they can find you - or alternatively, set up a private group to keep your nearest and dearest in the loop! This ensures everyone is kept up-to-date, and you may even be able to recruit some helpers to assist you in packing for your removal!

For a more personal touch, calling or mailing friends and family about your move might be the way to go - particularly to keep in touch with those without email access. Additionally, any services you haven't been able to update your details with online should be able to assist you over the phone.

Finally, a mail redirection service from Australia Post will help you stay in contact with those few people or groups that slipped your mind when you were preparing for your removal - be sure to update them with your new address, and everyone will be informed of your new address.



Sustainable Moving

“ The world is getting smaller and people are moving longer distances at an ever increasing rate. Thousands upon thousands of people are moving interstate every year, equating to huge amounts of carbon emissions and other waste through packing materials. ”

BY KEEPING THE ENVIRONMENT IN MIND NEXT TIME YOU MOVE HOUSE, YOU'RE SAVINGS WON'T JUST EXTEND TO MOTHER NATURE

Moving house is the perfect time to get rid of all the stuff you don't want or need. The fewer items that you move the more money you'll save and the lower the impact of your move will be on the environment.

If you don't need, use, or want an item it doesn't make any sense to pay to have it moved. You don't really want it cluttering up your new home either do you? Rather than moving it at a cost to yourself and the environment you could be turning those unwanted goods into cash!

Will your existing furniture and other items physically fit in your new home? Will it look good in its new surrounds? If the answer is 'no' then don't go to the expense of moving it.

Instead of costing you money to move, only to be discarded soon after, those unwanted items could be helping to cover the cost of your move!

Have you considered:

- Holding a garage sale in the lead up to your move to get some cash for your unwanted items?
- Selling the things you don't want to pay to move at on-line auctions like eBay?
- Donating to an op' shop, charity or local organisations?

By selling off or donating your unwanted furniture and other items you can be keeping the costs of your move down, stopping your furniture ending up as landfill and reducing carbon emissions - all while making a little extra money!

PACKING UP AND CLEARING OUT

It's illegal for furniture removalists to transport most hazardous materials. You'll need to dispose of hazardous goods in a safe and appropriate manner. Don't just throw hazardous materials out with the regular rubbish - it can pose significant risks to other people and the environment. Instead, consult your local council about the appropriate waste disposal outlet in your area.

With thousands of moves happening all over Australia, have you consider where all those packing boxes go after they've been used? While most end up as landfill, thankfully most storage facilities are offering second hand furniture removal cartons. They're cheaper and are better for the environment.

You shouldn't skimp on proper packing materials (to ensure your goods survive the rigours of transport), but there's nothing wrong with using second hand moving boxes if they're in good condition.

Moving boxes are expensive and it makes no sense that they don't get a second chance at life! Save Australia's trees. Save thousands of boxes from going into landfill. Save yourself some cash. Consider using second hand moving boxes for your next move!

When your move is over avoid throwing away moving boxes that are in good condition - you can return used cartons to many storage facilities to give them another life. If some cartons aren't up to the task of another move, recycle them instead of throwing them away in the regular rubbish.

Bags and suitcases are perfectly fine for packing clothes, linen and other haberdashery. If you're going to use (recycled) plastic bags you should 'double-bag' so that they don't tear open in transit.

It's not a good idea to use newspaper directly to wrap most of your fragile items. It can leave dirty marks all over your goods that can be difficult to remove. Instead, use butchers paper to wrap the goods directly and use recycled newspaper for additional padding (that's where the majority of paper will be used anyway). Recycled newspaper is free and the trees will thank you. Like your boxes, make sure to recycle when you've finished with it.





TOP TIPS FOR UNPACKING

“The anticipation is finally over! The furniture removalist has just left and you are looking at what appears to be mountains of moving boxes throughout your new house.”

When you were in the process of planning to move house and getting ready for the furniture removalists, you had a deadline for when all the packing needed to be finished. However, once you have moved house there isn't any deadline for when your moving boxes need to be unpacked, so people often leave things in their moving boxes indefinitely.

There's nothing worse than having your new house cluttered up with half unpacked for months after your move. Follow these tips to help you get all your moving boxes unpacked, so that when it's done, your move is really complete!

TOP UNPACKING TIPS

- You don't have to unpack everything on your first day;
- Make a plan for how you're going to tackle the process - you'll be more efficient that way and get the order right;

- As much as possible, try to unpack on a room-by-room basis - it's not as overwhelming and you'll be able to see your accomplishments;
- Always start with the most frequently used rooms and items first.

MOVE-IN DAY

As soon as you begin moving in you will have large furniture items that you need in place. Ask the furniture removalists to assist you with this while they are there. You should be at the delivery so that you can ask the furniture removalists to put large items, such as bookshelves, in the correct locations for you around your home.

Now that all the larger items are in place it's time to move on to the smaller things. Hopefully you've labelled all your boxes with what room it was for, so the furniture removalist's would most likely have placed it in the correct room for you.

It's a good idea to have a look where the moving boxes are being put while your removalist is still there, in case you need them to move some heavier boxes into the correct room for you before they leave.

WHERE TO START

It's always best to work on a room-by-room basis, but there are some things you can't do without for long. You should start by unpacking the essentials:

- Toilet Paper;
- Handwash;
- Bath and hand towels;
- The kettle and coffee making supplies;
- Some mugs and glasses;
- Some toys for the kids, if you have them;
- Anything else you're going to need to use in the first few hours.

KITCHEN

Beginning the unpacking process in the kitchen is a good idea. This is the central room of the house. Unpack all your essential kitchen items first, such as your crockery, cutlery and glassware (particularly important if you plan to make a toast to celebrate this momentous occasion!).

Then unpack your most frequently used appliances such as your toaster, microwave, and anything else you might use daily.

BEDROOMS

Once your kitchen is unpacked and now fully functioning you should start on the bedrooms. If you are following our guidelines, your bed and bedroom furniture should already be in the right places before the furniture removalists have left your house. Now you can start putting the beds together. Once they are assembled you will want to make your beds no doubt, so make sure you have a box or bag of linen and your pillows handy. You can also start unpacking your clothes.

BATHROOMS

After the kitchen and bedrooms are complete, the next room to focus on is the bathroom. While you should unload toilet paper, towels and handwash on arrival, be sure to unpack your toiletries before bedtime. The last thing you will want to do is searching through boxes for the toothpaste before you go to bed after you've been moving all day.

FINISHING UP

After these essential rooms have been unpacked you can then focus your attention on other less important items. It is a good idea to unpack your fragile items such as mirrors and lamps and so on, and then unpack your other lounge room or study items over the next coming days and weeks.

LEFT OVERS

Don't let all your packing materials go to waste. Prevent left over packing materials from ending up as landfill by returning your used boxes to your local storage facility. If they're in good condition they'll likely get a second lease on life and help someone else save a little cash on their next move.

Moving boxes that are not longer in reusable condition should be recycled and all your packing paper - not thrown in with the regular rubbish.

IT'S TIME TO CHANGE THE LOCKS!

You have no idea of the number of residents and other people who have previously held keys for your new house. Now that you're in your new home you should get your locks changed. Renters should check with their landlords or estate agents before doing this.





MOVING YOURSELF GUIDE

DIY

“ Considering a “Do-It-Yourself” move? Make sure you understand what you’re in for first and how to do the job right if you do. ”

DIY MOVES VERSUS HIRING PROFESSIONAL REMOVALISTS

Considering a ‘do-it-yourself’ move? More and more people are looking to save a buck when moving house by doing it themselves in a hire truck. On first impression, it may appear that renting a moving truck or van to move house yourself is going to save you cash but have you considered all angles to the DIY approach?

The first, and most obvious, cost of the DIY move is the hiring of the moving truck. It’s usually pretty cheap. You should ask about the cost of excess reduction for your insurance, though. It’s not usually on the advertisements for the truck hire company. If you don’t take out excess reduction insurance you could be up for huge charges if you should return the vehicle with so much as an additional stone chip! If you’re going to hire a moving truck for a DIY house move be sure to read the fine print or you may just end up paying for more than you bargained for.

So you’ve hired the moving truck. What else do you need to get your move done right? You’re going to need some proper furniture removal pads/blankets to protect your furniture in the truck. Regular sheets and blankets don’t provide the necessary padding and are likely to slip. You’re going to need some proper furniture removal ties. These are designed to tie up furniture in a moving truck. Normal ropes aren’t good for this because they may stretch and don’t provide the same traction to prevent loosening in transit, allowing your furniture to shift in the truck. They’re also flat, so they don’t cut into your furniture like regular ropes may. You’re likely to want a trolley to cart all those boxes to the hire truck too. The cost of hiring all these items can quickly add up and they’ll often not be included in the base rate to hire the moving truck.

Have you calculated the cost of the fuel for the moving truck? Trucks are pretty expensive to run and the cost of fuel is only going to increase over time. In the fine print of your rental agreement for the hire truck you’ll likely find a clause requiring the fuel tank to be full upon return or you’ll be charged a premium rate for the truck hire company to fill it up for you.

Are you hiring the moving truck on an hourly or daily basis? You may be paying the truck costs for an entire day, when you would have only paid a professional removalist for a few hours. If you’re hiring the truck on an hourly basis do you think you’d have it loaded, unloaded and returned faster than it would take professional removalists to get your job done? Whether you’re charged at an hourly or daily rate you might find that the savings are quickly drying up.

By hiring professional furniture removalists you know that you’re

getting experience. Getting your furniture moved safely and intact is not as easy as it sounds. It’s hard work and requires experience and skill to minimise damage and to get the job done in a reasonable amount of time.

Hiring rental trucks for a do-it-yourself house move may appear to be the cheapest and most hassle-free option, but you should make sure that you’re fully aware of all the costs and work involved before you commit. Be sure that your hard work is going to equate to significant savings - or any savings at all...

WHAT YOU’LL NEED

Use of the proper materials when loading a job yourself is as important as the quality of packing materials you’ve used to pack your belongings. If you use incorrect equipment, or use it incorrectly you’ll be putting your goods at risk of damage.

To get the job done right you’ll need:

- Felt furniture removal blankets or pads to protect larger, unboxed items;
- Purpose specific furniture removal ties to secure your load - minimizing the shifting and “gouging” that regular ropes will lend itself to;
- A trolley for your moving boxes (to save time, energy and reduce the chance of dropping boxes);
- A hire truck large enough for your load - preferably with a hydraulic tailgate so you won’t have to lift your furniture too high;
- As many hands as you can muster to lighten the load!

LOADING UP

- Don’t carry awkward or heavy goods by yourself;
- “Deck load” your furniture and boxes if you’re only going a short distance - it’s faster to load your goods onto the floor and make several trips, plus there’s less chance of damage;
- Use plenty of blankets to protect your furniture from the walls and floor and other items of furniture;
- Load boxed and heavier items at the front of the truck. Any shifting is likely to be forward in direction, so there’s less likelihood of crushing this way.





“ There’s no hiding that your treasured belongings are at greater risk when you’re moving house. In transit they’re exposed to more risks than when they’re sitting in the relative safety of your own home. ”

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO AVOID THE MOST COMMON MOVING MISTAKES AND DISASTERS

COMMON MOVING MISTAKE NO. 1 - NOT COVERING YOURSELF

Most people decide to insure their belongings in the relative comfort and safety of their own home. So why wouldn't you make sure you have it when your goods are moving, potentially thousands of kilometres? It makes sense to purchase some level of insurance or Transit Protection from your furniture removalists when moving house. If nothing else, it's a small price to pay for peace of mind.

COMMON MOVING MISTAKE NO. 2 - NOT LABELLING YOUR GOODS

When you move interstate, or a great distance, it's likely that your goods won't be the only ones on the truck. For many reasons, your furniture may not be delivered in the same truck or container that originally picked your furniture up.

The importance of proper labelling cannot be understated. Without labels there's a higher risk that your possessions could be misdelivered or go missing.

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COMMON MOVING MISTAKE NO. 3 - IMPROPER, INFERIOR PACKING MATERIALS & POOR PACKING METHODS

The use of low quality, damaged, or inappropriate packing materials and poor packing methods are by far and away the leading cause of damage to boxed items.

Generally, moving boxes will be stacked high on top of each other in the moving truck or in storage. They'll be subjected to bumps and shifting on the road or rail. They may need to be loaded and offloaded several times before delivery.

Moving boxes that aren't designed specifically for furniture removals can collapse and can be crushed more easily. When not sealed securely with proper packing tape, or when they are overloaded, their bases can give way.

Don't skimp on packing materials, it could end up costing you much more in the long run.

COMMON MOVING MISTAKE NO. 4 - NOT DISCLOSING ACCESS ISSUES

It's in nobody's best interests for things to go wrong at pickup or delivery. You're furniture removalists will ask you about what access is like at both address's. It's important to disclose everything to avoid delays and/or additional charges.

Is there anything that could impede your furniture removalists during pickup or delivery? Are there:

- Parking restrictions, clearways or inadequate parking for a truck;
- Height restrictions on underground car parks;
- Overhanging trees;
- Lifts or stairs (either internal or external);
- One way streets;
- Apartment building requirements, such as service lift bookings, public submission of public liability forms, etc;
- Narrow driveways;
- Anything else that might limit the size of the vehicle being used for your move, require the use of a ferry vehicle (like a ute or van), or cause delay in the loading or unloading of your job.

Pretty much any obstacle can be overcome. Furniture removalists deal with a myriad of access issues daily and it's usually easy if they've been informed of everything from the outset and been able to prepare ahead of time.

COMMON MOVING MISTAKE NO. 5 - COMMUNICATION BREAKDOWN

Being contactable is crucial for a smooth move. You furniture removalists will want to be able to contact you to give you updates on pickup and delivery.

If you're not contactable to arrange delivery then your goods might have to be offloaded into storage. This can mean double handling and, depending on the situation, may incur additional charges.

Be sure to supply your furniture removalists with as many contact details as possible: landlines, mobiles, fax numbers, email addresses, a friend or partner's number should you be unavailable.

COMMON MOVING MISTAKE NO. 6 - INFLEXIBILITY

There's lots going on when you're moving house. Around the time of pickup, in particular, there's a number of tasks that you'll want to run in sequential order. For example, you may plan for the furniture removalists to arrive and pickup your belongings, then you will do some cleaning, have your carpets professionally cleaned, hand over the property to the estate agents, and catch an interstate flight. You may be surprised by how many people try to schedule all these tasks for ONE DAY. Any one of these tasks could be delayed or take longer than you've allowed for in your schedule. Overscheduling causes unnecessary headaches for people who are moving, removalists and estate agents all too often.

Inflexibility at delivery can be a problem too. While they may not directly impact your move, cyclones, floods, train derailments, road closures, truck breakdowns, and many other factors, can often have far reaching implications and may result in delays to your delivery schedule. Delays are in nobody's best interests but, from time to time, they can and do happen. You shouldn't expect delays, but you should be prepared for them to happen.

COMMON MOVING MISTAKE NO. 7 - PACKING WHAT SHOULDN'T BE PACKED

Don't pack important documents and irreplaceables for your removalists to transport. Keep items like important medications, passports, birth certificates, marriage certificates, visa's, property deeds, family heirlooms and irreplaceable jewellery with you. Some things are not easily replaced.





Moving house? We've got the furniture removal service to suit your needs and budget...

Our furniture removal services:

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