

## Things You Should Know About Moving

### In Search of a New Residence

Subscribe to the area's local newspaper in advance of your move. It usually contains a large section of local tradesmen and local information.

Arrange for a house-hunting trip to your new suburb. When looking for a new home, take along a tape measure and a list of the exact dimensions of each of your major appliances and other large pieces of furniture. Measure the areas provided for them to be sure your appliances and furniture will fit.

### Preplanning Your Move

Plan the move as early as possible. If you are able to move at any time of the year, don't wait until summer, the peak-moving season. Consider also that the first and last few days of the month are extra busy. If you plan to sell your house, get it on the market as soon as possible. If renting, give your landlord timely notice of your moving date, usually 21 days in writing.

### Estimate of Moving Costs

Unless you have been given a binding quote where a firm cost is established in advance, the exact cost of a move cannot be determined until after the shipment has been loaded on the truck.

### Six to Eight Weeks before Moving Day

Have the removalist company give you a quote on the moving cost. Before the removal list arrives, inspect the property. Include the garage, patio and any storage shed. Decide what to move and what to discard. Remember the cost of moving an item may be greater than the cost of replacing it.

Decide whether you want to do any of the packing or have it done by professional experienced personnel. Show the removalist everything that is to be moved. Specify articles that are to be packed so the quote will include these charges. Any items that are later added to the shipment will add to the cost quote.

### Transfer of Personal Records

- Arrange for closing or transfer of charge accounts.
- Check personal insurance policies to see whether moving is covered. Transfer fire, theft and other personal property insurance to ensure coverage at the new home.
- Obtain transcripts of the children's school records and credentials from school authorities, if moving requires changing schools.
- Gather medical and dental records including vaccination data, medical prescriptions, dates of last examinations, history of past illnesses and so on.
- Ask your doctor and dentist to recommend colleagues in the new suburb. Be sure to check current telephone numbers and addresses of doctors, dentist and hospital, which will help when transferring your records.
- Transfer, sell or resign memberships in clubs or associations.

### Four to Six Weeks before Moving Day

Plan your packing if you plan to do the packing yourself, start collecting suitable containers. You can purchase specialised containers from most moving companies, such as:

- Small boxes for heavy items (books, record albums, and tools).
- Wardrobe containers.
- Large boxes for bulky items (pillows, blankets, and stuffed toys).
- Medium-sized boxes for bulkier but not so heavy items (towels, linens, and small appliances).

### **Collect other packing materials**

- White paper
- Tissue paper
- Paper towels
- Non printed-paper
- Newspapers
- Tape for sealing boxes
- Scissors or Sharp knife (keep out of children's reach)
- Felt marker to mark boxes
- Notebook & Pencil for listing contents

Set goals and deadlines to ensure that all packing is completed by moving day. You may want to pack one room per week. Attach a list of contents to each carton. Separate and mark goods that will go into storage.

Consider having a garage sale to dispose of unwanted items. You could donate unwanted clothing or household goods to charitable organisations. Remember that the cost of moving an item may be greater than replacing it. Begin to use up supplies of pantry items and frozen foods. Buy only what will be used before moving.

### **Places To Notify of Address Changes**

- Doctor
- Dentist
- Optometrist
- Accountant
- Lawyer or Solicitor
- Real Estate Agent
- Stock broker
- Health Clubs or Gyms
- Established Business Accounts
- RTA and NRMA
- Banks
- Finance companies
- Department store charge cards or memberships
- Publications
- Newspapers
- Magazines
- Credit Card Companies
- Relatives and friends
- Schools
- Insurance Agents
- Landlord, if you are a tenant. Tenants, if you are a landlord.

### **Two to Three Weeks before Moving Day**

Let the post office know your moving date and new address. Arrange for connection of utilities at your new home and disconnection of your current home. This can be done through the FREE service of direct connect. For an application form please go to our website [www.tracyroberts.com.au](http://www.tracyroberts.com.au)

Contact all service companies as listed:

- Electricity
- Gas
- Water
- Telephone
- Internet
- Foxtel/Optus

If possible, arrange to have utilities connected before your arrival.

Drain oil and fuel from your lawn mower and other machinery. Discard partly used cans of oil, paint, syrup or any other substance that may leak. Carefully tape-seal and place in individual waterproof bags any jars of liquids or semi-liquids you do not wish to discard.

Collect items that are being cleaned stored or repaired (clothing, shoes, watches). Return library books and anything borrowed from friends or neighbours'. Also collect things you may have loaned.

Pianos and organs need to be prepared for moving by a specialised technician.

Take pets to the veterinarian. Make sure identification tags are securely attached to the pet's collar with new address and/or contact phone number.

### **Three Days before Moving Day**

#### **Instant Aid Box**

Pack a box for instant needs on arrival. Mark the box "To be loaded last and Unloaded first." Package each group of items separately in labelled paper bags. Here are some suggestions.

#### **Cleaning**

- Sponge
- Paper towels
- Dish cloth
- Kitchen cleanser
- Window cleaner
- Scouring pads

#### **Kitchen**

- Aluminium foil
- Paper plates, cups, napkins
- Small saucepan
- Plastic knives, forks, spoons
- Serving spoons
- Snacks
- Sandwich spreads
- Boxes of dry cereals
- Instant coffee and tea
- Long life milk, sugar, salt

#### **Bathroom**

- Toilet paper
- Towels and face cloths
- Facial tissues
- Soap, hand lotion, deodorant
- Toothbrushes and toothpaste

#### **Last-Minute Packing**

- Light bulbs
- Flashlight
- Hammer, screwdriver, pliers, assorted nails
- Shelf paper and screws
- Garbage bags

#### **Children**

- Colouring books and crayons
- Puzzles
- A favourite toy or two

Pin clothing to hangers if it is to be moved in wardrobe cartons to keep it from slipping off. Take along snacks such as fruit and cookies for the children. Include towels for quick clean up. Arrange for a baby-sitter for moving day, or have older children look after the younger ones.

## **Moving Day**

### **Loading Your Belongings**

Be on hand when the removalist arrives. Otherwise, it is important to let the removalist know to whom you have given authority to take your place. Be sure this person knows exactly what to do.

Make a final tour of the house to be sure no items have been overlooked.

Check to see the removalist has the exact destination address.

Leave a note listing your new address in a conspicuous place in the house so the new occupants will be able to forward any of your mail inadvertently delivered to them.

### **Take a last look around:**

- Is the water turned off?
- Is the gas turned off?
- Is the air-conditioning turned off?
- Are the light switches turned off?
- All utilities arranged for disconnection?
- Are the windows shut and locked?
- Have you left anything behind?
- Lock the house and leave the keys with the real estate agent.

### **At Your Destination**

Make sure the house is ready for occupancy before the removalist arrives. If you have not already done so, contact the utility companies and make necessary arrangements for service.

Be on hand to accept delivery of your household goods. Otherwise authorise an adult as your representative to accept delivery and pay the charges for you. Inform the removalist or the person so authorised.

Check your household goods, as they are unloaded. Personally report any loss or damage to the removalist company at destination immediately.

To save time and confusion, place a floor plan of your new home at the entrance the removalists will use, indicating where each piece of furniture should go.

When unloading, each piece of furniture will be placed as you direct.

To prevent possible damage, television sets, other electronic equipment and certain major appliances should not be used for 24 hours after delivery, allowing them time to adjust to room temperature. If you have paid for unpacking, you are entitled to unpacking service and removal of the cartons.

### **Getting Settled**

If you have not already done so, contact the utility companies and make necessary arrangements for service.

Have your medical and dental records transferred after selecting a family physician and dentist.

Register to vote.

Locate the selected schools. Take the children, introduce yourself and register them.

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