

GETTING READY TO MOVE

YOU'RE ALMOST THERE! NEXT COMES PACKING UP AND MOVING IN TO YOUR NEW PROPERTY. REGARDLESS OF WHETHER YOU'VE BOUGHT A MANSION OR A COZY STUDIO, MOVING HOME CAN BE VERY HECTIC SO IT PAYS TO PLAN WELL IN ADVANCE.

Start organising your move as soon as you've exchanged contracts. Sort and sell things you don't need at a garage sale and put the money towards moving costs. Ask friends to recommend removal companies or Google removalist company reviews. Ask for quotes as prices can vary considerably. At the back of this booklet you'll find a handy moving kit.

EIGHT WEEKS BEFORE THE MOVE

- If you are using a professional mover, get estimates from different moving companies and choose the one that is best suited to your needs. If you are moving yourself, get estimates from truck rental companies. Be sure to make your booking well in advance
- Draw a floor plan of your new house. This will help you decide what furniture stays and what furniture must go
- Use up things that can't be moved - such as the food in your freezer and flammable household aerosol cleaning supplies
- Contact the information office or local council in your future location and start gathering information about your new home town

SIX WEEKS BEFORE THE MOVE

- Discuss costs, packing, loading, delivery, insurance and the claims procedure with your mover
- Make inventory of all of your possessions now determine what can be sold and what can be donated to charity
- Get copies of your records from doctors, dentists, lawyers, accountants, etc. Make arrangements to transfer your children's school records
- If you're a traditionalist, go to the post office and obtain a change of address kit and start filling out the cards. Alternatively, Google 'Change My Address' and select the Australian Government portal for advice and tips. Don't forget about changing your address for magazine subscriptions, catalogues, etc.

FOUR WEEKS BEFORE THE MOVE

- If you have contracted to have the mover do all the packing for you, arrange to have this task completed a day or two before loading the truck
- If you need it, arrange for storage
- Clean or repair any furniture, curtains, or carpets that need it
- Hold a garage sale. Use the extra cash to splurge a little on your new place
- If you are moving yourself, work out how many boxes you'll need. (Many truck rental companies can also help you calculate)
- 'Do-it-yourselfers' should take stock of non-boxable items. Add 15 per cent to their combined cubic feet (along with total cubic feet of boxes to be loaded) to determine the size of truck you'll need

THREE WEEKS BEFORE THE MOVE

- Assemble packing materials
- Furniture pads
- Packing tape
- Bubble wrap

- Styrofoam 'peanuts'
- Nylon packing string and rope
- Crumpled newspapers
- Scissors
- Utility knife
- Large self-stick labels
- Felt-tip markers
- Boxes, boxes, boxes
- Begin packing items that you won't need. Don't pack too much weight in an un-reinforced box
- Arrange to cancel utilities and services at your old home and have them installed at your new home

TWO WEEKS BEFORE THE MOVE

- Arrange to transfer all of your bank accounts to new branch locations
- Make any special arrangements to move pets
- Consult your veterinarian about how to make moving easier for your pet
- Make arrangements for new telephone service
- Cancel any direct deposit or automatic payment arrangements on bank accounts you are closing
- Cancel delivery services

ONE WEEK BEFORE THE MOVE

- Transfer all medical prescriptions to a pharmacy in your new location
- If you will need a babysitter, make a booking one week before moving day
- Return library books

TWO OR THREE DAYS BEFORE THE MOVE

- Defrost your refrigerator and freezer
- Have the movers pack your shipment
- Confirm with your removalist company how they wish to be paid on delivery day
- Set aside valuables and legal documents to go with you, not in the van
- Pack clothing and toiletries to go with you, take a day or two's extra clothes in case of delay
- Pack your first-day handy items box (see 'Delivery Day') to go with you

MOVING DAY

- Do-it-yourself movers should pick up the truck early
- Make a list of every item and box loaded onto the truck
- Let the mover know where you can be reached
- Before you sign your agreement with the mover, read the conditions and consider insurance
- Keep the agreement in a safe place until your goods are delivered, charges are paid, and any claims are settled
- Check your old house to make sure you've turned off water, gas, electricity and appliances etc.
- Inspect the basement, garden shed, attic and garage
- Be on hand to answer questions and give directions to the mover

DELIVERY DAY

On arrival at your new home, unpack your first-day items box:

- Scissors
- Utility knife
- Coffee cups
- Electric or conventional kettle
- Paper plates
- Toilet paper
- Instant coffee and tea
- Soap
- Pencils and paper
- Masking tape
- Bath towels
- Trash bags
- Toiletries kit
- Shelf liner
- Check off all boxes and items as they come off the truck
- Check the utilities are hooked up
- Unpack kids' toys
- Be on hand to answer questions, pay the driver, give direction and examine your belongings

HERE'S A GOOD IDEA - MAKE UP A 'MOVING NOTICE' AND EMAIL ALL YOUR CONTACTS. HERE'S A SAMPLE:

HERE'S A FINAL CHECKLIST OF CONTACTS TO BE MADE:

FINANCIAL / LEGAL (NOTIFY IN WRITING)

- Bank (Credit cards and children's accounts)
- Building society (Loan and savings accounts)
- Credit union
- Age / Invalid / Repatriation
- Pensions (Social Security / Repatriation Departments)
- Public library
- Life insurance companies (quote policy no.)
- Property insurance company (contents quote policy no.)
- Car insurances company (quote policy no.)
- Any other insurance (children's accident, pet insurance etc.)
- Hire purchase companies

FINANCIAL / LEGAL (NOTIFY IN WRITING)

- Credit cards (Visa, Mastercard, American Express, store accounts, etc.)
- Motor registration Branch
- Car registration
- Driver's license
- Electoral Office (address in telephone directory under Government section)
- Local police (if you have any driving summonses, etc. pending, or if you are to be a witness in a case, etc.)
- Shares & investments,
- Government bonds, etc.

PERSONAL / SOCIAL

- Employers
- Schools
- Kindergarten
- Primary
- Secondary
- Part time, evening and correspondence courses
- Other (when children change school, you may need an official transfer)
- Doctor
- Dentist
- Hospital (if you are an outpatient, etc.)
- Baby health centre
- Health fund
- Social clubs
- Children's activities (Scouts, Ballet, etc.)
- Sporting clubs (whether a player or a member)
- Neighbours
- Relations
- Friends
- Other

HOUSEKEEPING

- Newsagent (with date last paper required if you have delivery)
- Electricity department 'off' at old address 'on' at new address
- Gas company 'off' at old address 'on' at new address
- Telephone (Contact customer service) 'off' at old address 'on' at new address
- Post office (pay a monthly fee for redirected mail)
- Magazine subscriptions (anything received by mail) - save wrappers with reference numbers
- Email all contacts in your address book with your new email address, if you were required to change ISP

WE ARE MOVING!!

John & Mary Brown are leaving 1 Smith Street, Smithtown and will be at 10 Brown Street, BROWNSVILLE STATE 0000 From 1st November New Telephone: (00) 0000 0000