



after the wedding moving kit

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INTRODUCTION

Congratulations on your up coming move!

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If there is anything that you feel is left out of the kit, or you have any suggestions for improvement, or words of encouragement, feel free to send us an email (an email address is listed on the webpage www.afterthewedding.com.au and sometimes changes due to spam issues).

Congratulations again, and all the best for life in your new home.

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CHECKLIST

8 WEEKS TO GO

- Start keeping a list of all of the mail you receive (a list stuck on the fridge is a good place and easy to remember) so you know who to contact to change your address.
- Create a "move file" to keep track of estimates, receipts and other important information.

4 WEEKS TO GO

- If you are renting, formally notify your landlord that you will be leaving and the date that you will be handing back your keys (which should be at least a day after your move so that you have time to clean the premises before handing in the keys).
- Start creating an inventory list of items you in your home and separate them into:
 - things you want to move;
 - things that might need to be stored;
 - things that you no longer want;
 - things that are valuable or difficult to replace and plan on moving these things yourself.
- Get some quotes from removalists. Use our [removalist quote comparison sheet](#) to keep a record of who you talk to and what they say.
- Start contacting storage facilities and friends / family to organise storage of the things that you want stored.
- Have a garage sale or use an online auction service to sell items that you no longer want. Or, donate items to charities such as the Salvation Army (who will also collect large items for you).
- Take a trip to the tip or arrange for rubbish removal of items that are not fit for re-sale or charity.
- Start a list of things that you are going to be moving yourself. A list on the fridge next to your mail list is a great place and easy to access as soon as you think of something to add. If your list gets too long you might need to plan a few car loads or get some friends to help move these things.
- Start collecting boxes and packaging supplies such as paper or bubble wrap to wrap fragile items.
- Contact your insurance company and either cancel your home and contents insurance policy or transfer it to your new property.
- If you are moving to a regional area you should check with your mobile phone carrier and internet service provider to make sure they provide services in your new area.
- If you have a post office box consider relocating it to a closer location and contact Australia Post to organise this.
- Research general information about your new location. Where is the local supermarket and petrol station?
- Arrange the transfer of your children's school records to the new school if applicable.
- Begin to use up food items and other consumables (such as cleaning items) so that you don't have to move them. Only buy what you will use over the next month.

3 WEEKS TO GO

- Begin packing items that you are not likely to use again before your move such as those stored in your garage or garden shed.
- Disassemble outdoor items such as barbeques, outdoor settings, hammocks, swing sets and place all bolts and fixtures in your [essentials box](#).
- Your removalist may not be able to move your dangerous goods, so arrange to move these yourself, or dispose of them. Dangerous goods can include: ammunition, opened or unopened paint, bleach products, gas cylinders, turpentine, kerosene, oil, petrol, commercial cleaning products and other chemicals.
- Arrange to empty any petrol cans or gas bottles that you want to keep.
- Assemble a folder of important information about the home for the new owner / occupier of your home, such as operating manuals, instructions and warranties for dishwashers, ovens, security systems etc. Put things in it as you find them so you don't pack them by mistake.
- Arrange body corporate permissions. If you are moving into or out of an apartment and need to use the elevator, it may be necessary to arrange this with the body corporate in advance. Also, if you need to move any large items of furniture in via windows or balconies you may also need body corporate permission.
- If you don't want to do it yourself, arrange for a cleaner to clean your new property before you move in (it's a lot easier to clean when the place is empty) and someone to clean the property that you are vacating.
- Organise a carpet cleaner to steam or dry clean the carpet after your move.

2 WEEKS TO GO

- Pay any outstanding bills – your accounts may go missing for a few weeks and you don't want to miss a due date!
- Arrange to have your utilities disconnected at your old home, and reconnected at your new home. This includes electricity, gas, water and home phone.
- Start notifying businesses, colleagues and service providers of your intended change of address. Go through your files and contact each organisation that you have received bills or correspondence from.
- Arrange for Australia Post to redirect your mail.
- Discontinue milk and bread deliveries.
- Enquire in your local area about milk and bread deliveries.
- Discontinue newspapers and subscriptions.
- Enquire at your new local newsagency about newspaper deliveries.
- Discontinue garden and cleaning services.
- If you have any kitchen or other major appliances that require professional connections arrange for an electrician or plumber to be available on your moving day.
- Plan meals for the last week ahead to use up any food items you still have and avoid using kitchen items that you may want to pack.
- Fill any prescriptions or medications that you will need for the next couple of weeks in case you pack any prescriptions and then can't find them.
- Return video's, DVD's, library books and items borrowed from friends and neighbours.
- Arrange childcare for your moving day if necessary.

1 WEEK TO GO

- Arrange disconnection and reconnection of phone, gas and electricity.
- If you are renting, arrange the day and time for the final property inspection.
- Gather all of your keys (including ones hidden under door mats and potplants) and all spares that you might have allocated to family and friends.
- Start packing! Create an inventory list while you are packing for each box. Attach it to each box as you pack it. This will help if you need to find something after it has been packed. Make a copy for every box you have to pack.
- Pack your valuables (e.g jewellery) and important documents in their own box and give it to a trusted friend or relative for safe keeping while you move.
- Pack your emergency bag. [Read more about the emergency bag here.](#)
- Seek out hidden items or items stashed away for safe keeping such as cash buried in the backyard, hidden under the house or in the toilet cistern.
- Collect laundry from the dry cleaners for packing.
- As you notice them, make a list of damage, dents and scratches to your belongings. Your removalist will need to know this for insurance purposes.
- Buy any additional boxes you need for packing.
- Buy any additional paper for wrapping fragile items. Newspaper works well but white paper will eliminate black marks on your belongings (and hands!)
- Buy packing tape.
- Buy a few large black markers for labelling boxes.
- Make sure meals are pre-prepared for moving day and the day after.
- Back up your computer's hard drive.
- Send e-cards or postcards to family and friends with your new address.

3 DAYS BEFORE

- Mow the lawn for the final time and drain fuel from the lawn mower and other garden equipment.
- Disassemble any assemble-yourself furniture (such as IKEA items).
- Do your last load of washing in your old home. You'll need a few days for your laundry and machine to dry before moving, and you don't want to arrive at your new home with boxes of laundry to do!
- Create a floor plan of your new home outlining where large items of furniture and box numbers should go. You can put this by the entrance of your new place and the removalists can use it to determine where your things should go.
- Confirm dates and times with your removalist.

THE DAY BEFORE

- Defrost your refrigerator and freezer and prepare any other appliances for moving.
- Unplug electronic appliances the day before moving so they are at room temperature for moving.
- Clean your new premises so it is spick and span and ready for you!

MOVE DAY

- Set aside your emergency bag and all items that you will be moving yourself so they don't get taken by your removalist by mistake.
- Do a final walk through before you leave, checking all rooms and cupboards.
- Leave a forwarding address with the new occupant so they can forward any mail or get in contact with you in an emergency.
- Place a floor plan of your new home by the entrance, which the movers can use to determine where each piece of furniture should go.
- Take the electric garage door opener out of the car before you go.

AFTER DELIVERY

- Contact your removalist about the used packing boxes (if you have paid for them through your removalist).
- Clean up your old premises.
- Turn off the gas at the meter, the electricity at the switchboard and water at the tap (after you have finished cleaning)
- Lock all doors and windows as you leave
- If renting, hand your keys back to your agent and have your final property inspection.
- File any insurance claims as necessary.

THE WEEKS AFTER YOUR MOVE

- If you are moving to a new town or city, arrange for your medical and dental records to be transferred to your new doctor.
- Follow-up any mail that is still getting forwarded to the wrong address. If you have changed your address with most organisations you shouldn't be getting any mail still forwarded by Australia Post.

HOW TO CHOOSE A REMOVALIST

By Nick Jones

The last thing you want to deal with on moving day is shady or unreliable removalists. You've heard the horror stories before -- removalists who don't show up, or who arrive hours late with a crew half the size of what you were promised. The time to find out what you can expect from a removalist service is when you are researching alternatives. On the day of your move, it's too late to step back and start asking questions designed to help you figure out if you are dealing with a reputable removalist or not.

What to Look for When Hiring a Removalist

Hiring the right removalist is a necessity if you want to enjoy a move that goes as smoothly as possible. If you want to make sure that you are hiring a top quality removalist who will show up, do the work you requested, and handle your possessions with care, you need to check the facts before making your final selection. Signs that you are hiring a reputable, professional removalist include:

- The company has been in business five or more years.
- The company has a website that conveys a professional image.
- The company can provide proof of bonding and proper insurance coverage.
- The moving trucks are company trucks, branded with the company image.
- The organization has and is willing to share client testimonial phone numbers.
- They have 1300 or 1800 phone number and a physical office location.

It is in your best interest to use this checklist when hiring a removalist. This is the best way to make sure that you are dealing only with professional removalists who are truly qualified to transport your belongings. Professional removalists with well-trained employees are going to be able to pass this checklist. Fly-by-night "so-called" removalists will not have these credentials.

When your removalist meets the above criteria, you are not likely to experience a moving day horror story caused by choosing the wrong company. When you deal with professionals, you know they have good and reliable equipment. You can be comfortable that they do carry insurance in the event that an employee is injured on your property or that your possessions are damaged. You also know where their office is located, in case you need to track them down to deal with a problem once the move is complete.

What to Avoid When Hiring Removalist

Most people who end up experiencing a removalist nightmare realize that there were signs along the way that they might not be dealing with a legitimate company. Watch for the following signs, and avoid hiring removalists that fit this description:

- No one ever answers the phone when you call them.
- No physical address on the business card.
- Requests for payment in advance of the move.
- Requires payment in cash only.
- The company does not have a website.
- The moving truck is a pickup truck.
- They are not listed in the telephone directory

Make Smart Choices for Your Move

For ultimate protection when you move to a new home, hire a reputable removalist and take out your own transit insurance, just in case something does go wrong. Accidents can happen, even with professional removalists. There is no good reason to hire a removalist who doesn't represent a professional and legitimate business. Taking a chance by choosing the cheapest removalist you can find isn't worth the potential cost in the long run.

Nick Jones from has been in the Sydney furniture removals industry his whole life. If you need and experience, friendly and efficient, Sydney, furniture removals service then you shouldn't go past Jones Removals for your storage or moving needs. www.jonesremovals.com.au.

MOVING MANUAL

CABLE AND SATELLITE TV

If your new home doesn't have cable or satellite facilities it may end up cheaper to have this connected than terminating your contract with your provider. Check the terms of your agreement and talk to your provider before making any decisions.

CLEANING

A list of what to clean:

- The oven
- Stovetop
- Inside cupboards
- Cupboard fronts
- Carpet (this should be dry or steam cleaned by a professional)
- Board, tile or lino floors
- Windows
- Benches and window ledges
- Dirty marks on walls and doors
- Sweep out the garage
- Bathroom

COMPANIES AND BUSINESSES

If you run a home based business, are a director, secretary or public officer of a company or the home you are moving from is the registered office or principal place of business of a company, there are certain requirements regarding who you change your address with and the timeframes for this. Contact your accountant, ASIC and your state authority for their specific requirements.

COUNCIL

If you are buying or selling you will need to notify your local council of the change in ownership. Most councils have their own specific forms for doing this.

CROCKERY & CUTLERY

Use white paper for packing crockery and cutlery (it avoids the black greasy marks left by newspaper) and wash them prior to re-using.

ENTERTAINMENT / ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT

Entertainment and other electrical equipment is best packed and moved in it's original boxes. You should disconnect all cords and leads before packing, and keep them with their items if possible. Otherwise, label them and put them in your [essentials box](#). You should unplug electronic appliances the day before moving so they are at room temperature for moving.

ELECTRICAL AND GAS APPLIANCES

If you have any kitchen or other major appliances that require professional connections arrange for an electrician or plumber to be available on your moving day. You should unplug electronic appliances the day before moving so they are at room temperature for moving.

EMERGENCY BAG

Should include items such as:

- Cutlery and crockery for use on your first night and morning if you haven't unpacked yet.
- A toiletry bag for that night and the next morning
- A change of clothes for the next day
- Toilet paper
- Towels
- Snacks and drinks for during the moving day

ESSENTIALS BOX

Should include:

- Remote controls
- Screws, bolts, brackets and fixtures of assembled items (a great way to remember what belongs to what is to package items in a zip lock bag and label the item of furniture that they belong to, e.g "IKEA book shelf").
- Cables (again, a great way to remember what belongs to what is to package items in a zip lock bag and label the bag e.g. "computer power cable").

FURNITURE

Planning in advance where you want to put your furniture in your new home will save time on moving day (and therefore save you moving costs) and also save the frustration of moving things around to see where they fit after the move.

You can easily measure up your new place (it doesn't have to be accurate to the centimetre, stepping it out can often be enough), measure up your furniture and draw up a floor plan on graph paper. Using scaled pieces of paper to represent your furniture you can move things around until you think you have the right fit.

FRIDGES AND FREEZERS

Fridges and freezers should be defrosted 24 hours before your move and given a basic clean. Store them with their doors open to avoid mildew and smells. You should clean them again after your move as they will often get dusty and dirty during the moving process. These appliances are also best left to settle for 24 hours before turning them back on.

HOME & CONTENTS INSURANCE

You should contact your insurance company prior to your move and either cancel your home and contents insurance policy or transfer it to your new property.

This is also a good time to reconsider your level of cover. If you are moving to a smaller home and disposing of some items you may be able to reduce your insurance cover and save on your premiums. If you are moving to a large home, it may be a good time to anticipate any new furniture or belongings that you intend to buy and increase your cover accordingly.

KITCHEN FOODS IN-USE

You can either give perishable foods (e.g. milk, butter) to neighbours or friends / family or consider disposing of them before you move. This will be a lot easier than trying to move food that can spill and go off.

MAIL

Australia Post offers a mail direction service for a small cost. You can choose the length of time that you want to have your mail redirected to your new address and it is a good way of catching areas where you have forgotten to change your address.

PACKING TIPS

- Label each box by number rather than contents.
- Label each box on all sides (if boxes are stacked on top of each other or against something it can be hard to tell what box it is if you have only labelled it on one side).
- Keep a box inventory. In a notebook write down each box number and what it contains. In your new home it will be easier to look at your list if you're trying to find a specific item than go searching labels on your boxes throughout the house.
- Create a basic plan of your new home and write on it which box numbers you want in each room. You can place this plan at the entrance to your new home for the removalists to refer to.

UTILITIES

Utilities usually require about 5 business days notice in order to change your address and disconnect and reconnect your services.

WHAT TO LEAVE BEHIND

- all the keys you scattered around your relatives, the neighbours and the garden
- the remote control for the garage door
- the documentation for fixtures like the air conditioning unit, water heater, pool filter, garage door etc.
- spare tiles and paint.