

9 things you must do before moving house

There's a lot to think about when moving into your new home.

It's an exciting time but if you're not organised, it can quickly turn into a nightmare. With a bit of simple planning, you can make it a much easier and more pleasant experience.

Item		Checklist
1. Book a removalist	Let's face it, lifting and transporting heavy boxes and furniture is time consuming and exhausting. It's much better to pay a professional instead. A good removalist company has the people and equipment to do all the hard work for you in just a few hours. They're also insured, so your stuff is covered for any damage.	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Start packing	Packing everything yourself will save you time and money in the long run. Most removal or storage companies supply packing boxes and tape, which are specially designed for moving house. Alternatively, pop into your local shops to see if they have any spare boxes. Get some padding to protect fragile items and mark your boxes clearly to make finding your stuff easier.	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Throw out what you don't need	As you gather up your stuff to pack, work out what things you need and what you don't. The less you have to pack and take with you, the more time and money you'll save. You can have a garage sale, donate any books, music, toys or clothes to charity, and even organise a skip to throw out any hard rubbish.	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Pay your old bills	It's a good idea to check if you have any outstanding utility bills on your old place. If you do, pay them. There's nothing worse than receiving an unpaid bill six months later with a fine on top. Also, disconnect your old utilities, so you're not still paying for them after you've moved.	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Connect your utilities	Before your move date, ring your power and water companies, and your telco to get all the utilities connected at your new place. Make sure you do it well ahead of time, because there can be delays. It'll make moving in a lot less stressful knowing that everything is working when you arrive.	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Organise a cleaner	If you're moving out of a rental, then it's a good idea to pay someone to clean your place properly so you can get your bond back. Hiring a professional will give you peace of mind knowing that they'll do a thorough job. You can also organise a cleaner to do your new home, so it's one less thing to worry about when you move in.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Item	Checklist	
<p>7. Update your address</p>	<p>Before your move, you should probably let everyone know where you'll be. Notify the electoral office with your new address, update your driver's license and car registration, and talk to your old post office about redirecting your mail. Plus, you should give your friends and family your new contact details, just so they know where to find you.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>8. Get insurance</p>	<p>If you don't have home and contents insurance then you should get it. This can cover the cost of replacing all your expensive items like computers, tablets, TVs and art works against theft or damage. If you already have cover for your old home, talk to your insurance company about closing that policy and starting another one for your new place.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>9. Spare keys</p>	<p>During all the commotion of moving, it's easy to misplace and forget your keys. The last thing you want to do is be locked out of your new house. Get a set of keys cut for each person moving in, and leave a few spare keys with friends and family, just in case.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>