



# Housing Options. Packing up and Moving

When you are moving house, you will need to decide whether to move yourself with the help of friends or relatives or to employ a furniture removalist.

## Considering friends or relatives

You may be able to move yourself with the help of friends or relatives. Before deciding to do it yourself consider the following:

- Will helpers have adequate physical strength and endurance to lift heavy items and not injure their backs?
- Are there at least two helpers?
- Can helpers get adequate time off work to complete the move on schedule?
- Will your household contents policy cover for potential loss in case of accident en route?
- Can they carry heavy items like the fridge, through doorways, up stairs without damaging them?
- Do you have access to a suitable vehicle to move your furniture and effects?
- Look at all costs, such as truck rental and insurance, carefully.
- Will the rental truck be equipped with trolleys, packing materials and ties and has the vehicle been properly maintained?

If you answered no to any of these questions, it would be advisable to contact professional removal services.

## Choosing a removalist

- First decide if you will pack/unpack yourself or if you want the removalist to do this
- If you do not have a recommendation from someone you know, use the Yellow Pages
- You should get detailed written quotes from 2 or 3 removal companies and compare the level of service and charges. Find out what is included in the quote and what is extra – including insurance

- Whichever way you go, the important thing is to be sure that the removalist will take care of your possessions and provide you with insurance for any damage that occurs
- It is important not to be rushed into a big move and you should take your time in choosing a removalist

Be wary of quotations far below others. It is not a good sign when the removalist has no actual place of business, or where there is a place of business, it appears disorganised, unclean, and lacking in staff. If the removalist is unknown to you, ask to see recommendations from satisfied customers. Do not accept quotations that have obligations attached. Beware of 'subject to increase' clauses or hidden charges.

Always ensure that you understand all the terms and conditions of your moving contract such as the hourly rate, start and finish times, how the charges are made and any special charges that may apply.

Make sure that you are agreed on the method of payment and that clear instructions are given as to when payment is required.

Contact the **Australian Furniture Removers Association (AFRA)** or check its website for a list of accredited removalists. Tel. 1800 671 806, [www.afra.com.au](http://www.afra.com.au)

## Some questions to ask:

Do you pack or must I do it? Do you provide cartons and at what cost? Are there particular packing requirements for items such as pictures and mirrors? Will you have a large enough vehicle, or will you need 2 trucks? Can you store my possessions if necessary, and if so, at what cost? Is all-risks insurance included in your quote, and if not, what is the cost? Does your quote include driver and assistant? Is the truck open or enclosed?

Will you place furniture and boxes in the correct rooms in the new home? Is a discount available for seniors?

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### Planning timetable –6 weeks to go

1. Contact your landlord or real estate agent if you are renting. Confirm the date you are leaving and arrange final inspection
2. Clear out any unwanted goods. Have a garage sale. A charity shop may collect items of worth
3. Start a central file for documents related to the move
4. Book the removal company/rental truck. Obtain a quote and written confirmation of the booking
5. Make a list of all valuables to assess the value of your goods for insurance purposes and later on for checking that nothing has gone missing
6. Arrange removal insurance. Your home and contents insurer may be able to provide 'transit cover'. Compare the cost with insurance offered by the removalist. Make sure valuable items are covered
7. If packing yourself, collect packing boxes or arrange to purchase cartons from the removalist. Organise packing tape and marking pens
8. Arrange for the disposal of items like fuel, garden chemicals, paint and other flammable items
9. Plan to use up frozen food before you leave

### Four weeks to go

1. Organise with the post office for your mail to be redirected
2. Start packing boxes if you are doing your own packing. Pack items from the same room in the same box to make unpacking easier. Number and label the boxes with room identification. Keep a separate list of contents for each box
3. Pack appliances in their original boxes if possible and wrap fragile items with bubble wrap or newspaper. Mark these boxes 'Handle with care'

### Two weeks to go

1. Continue packing
2. Arrange final readings/disconnection for telephone, water, electricity and gas supplies and ensure supplies will be on at your new home
3. Return any library books or videos

### One week to go

1. Complete packing or at least nominate boxes that will not be packed until the last minute. Place items you will need to use when you arrive in one box

2. Create a floor plan of your new home and plan the placement of furniture
3. Cancel newspaper, milk, soft drink and other deliveries. Make a list of things to do on moving day
4. It is a good idea to arrange for your pets to be collected the day before you move. Ensure any travel arrangements for your pets have been confirmed.
5. Drain fuel from lawnmower, empty any gas cylinders/bottles (your local garage may be able to help) and remove batteries from any battery-powered devices
6. Make arrangements to get your keys to new occupiers and collect keys for your new residence
7. Confirm insurance cover for furniture etc. during removal, collect dry cleaning and tidy the garden

### One day to go

1. Empty and defrost fridge, empty garbage bins
2. Arrange access to your new home so you can tidy it up before your things arrive

### The day you move

1. Check that nothing has been left behind. Turn off appliances, lights and gas in the house as well as at the mains. Lock all windows and doors. Leave your home clean for the new owner
2. Give the keys to the agent for the new owner
3. Check that all boxes and items of furniture arrive at your new home
4. Check the electricity, gas telephone etc. are connected. Turn on the hot water system

### After you move

1. Don't try to do the unpacking all at once. Take your time
2. Organise newspaper, milk and other deliveries
3. Draw up a list of who you need to notify of your change of details and what you need to include in the letter e.g. account number, policy number etc.

### Downsizing

Catalyst Foundation (formerly Seniors Information Service) holds seminars on planning for downsizing and can provide a list of professional organising services on request. Tel. **8168 8776 (Country SA 1800 636 368).**

Catalyst Foundation is supported by the Australian Government Department of Health. Visit the website <https://agedcare.health.gov.au/> for more information. Although funding for this publication has been provided by the Australian Government, the material contained herein does not necessarily represent the views or policies of the Australian Government.



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### Checklist – Who you should notify when you move

- Any relatives and friends
- Medical – doctor, dentist, podiatrist, optometrist, chemist, vet, etc.
- Employers/organisations where you volunteer
- Executor of your will, person who has power of attorney/substitute decision maker
- Clubs and associations – seniors, social, sporting and church
- Charities and subscriptions
- Frequent flyer clubs
- Retail store accounts, loyalty cards
- Council – rates, pet registration, etc.
- Banks, credit unions, building societies, credit cards
- Do Not Call Register (if the phone number was registered and has changed), [www.donotcall.gov.au](http://www.donotcall.gov.au), tel. 1300 792 958
- Ambulance service
- Australian Electoral Commission, tel. 13 23 26, website [www.aec.gov.au/enrol/change-address.htm](http://www.aec.gov.au/enrol/change-address.htm) or Electoral Commission SA, tel. 1300 655 232, website [www.ecsa.sa.gov.au/enrolment/change-your-details](http://www.ecsa.sa.gov.au/enrolment/change-your-details)
- Your providers of home support and care services, and My Aged Care (1800 200 422) or National Disability Insurance Agency (1800 800 110, [www.ndis.gov.au/form/contact-form.html](http://www.ndis.gov.au/form/contact-form.html)) if applicable. Alternatively use MyGov\*.
- Medicare, tel. 13 2011, or through your MyGov\*; private health fund
- Australian Taxation Office, tel. 13 28 61 or through MyGov\*
- Centrelink, tel. 13 23 00 (Age Pension / Cth. Seniors Health Card); 13 27 17 (Disability Support Pension or carer benefits) or through My Gov\*; Dept of Veterans' Affairs, tel. 1800 555 254
- Delivery services – newspaper, bottled water, milk, Meals on Wheels, etc.
- Insurances – home and contents, life, car
- Investments and share registrar
- Funeral plots (funeral bonds or pre-paid funeral plans for yourself or if you are the family contact advise relevant cemetery administrators)
- Land tax – RevenueSA, tel. 8204 9870
- Lawyer, solicitor, stockbroker, accountant, financial advisor
- Library (if you have a borrowers card)
- Registration and Licensing – car and boat registration, driver's license, tel. 13 1084 or online (using EzyReg or mSAGOV account) – see details and links at [www.sa.gov.au/topics/driving-and-transport/vehicles-and-registration/vehicle-registration/vehicle-registration/updating-your-details](http://www.sa.gov.au/topics/driving-and-transport/vehicles-and-registration/vehicle-registration/vehicle-registration/vehicle-registration/updating-your-details)
- Post office (mail re-direction) – at your local post office or on the website <http://auspost.com.au/parcels-mail/redirecting-your-mail.html> (in store only if applying for concession fee)
- Royal Automobile Association (RAA), tel. 8202 4600
- SA Water, tel. 1300 650 950, website [www.sawater.com.au/residential/buying,-moving-and-selling](http://www.sawater.com.au/residential/buying,-moving-and-selling)
- Telephone company; pay TV, Internet provider
- Utilities – electricity, gas
- Security service (if you protect your property)
- Superannuation funds
- State Seniors Card, tel. 1800 819 961
- Your country's consulate (if you hold citizenship other than Australian)

You can notify Medicare, Centrelink, the Australian Taxation Office, My Aged Care and the National Disability Insurance Agency through MyGov at <https://mygov.au>. Catalyst Foundation (including Seniors Information Service) can assist you with creating a MyGov account.