

The week before you move

1. Confirm the date and time of moving day with your removal company.
2. Start thinking about your daily routine - what things do you need access to everyday such as the remote control, toothbrush, breakfast bowl, etc. Make a conscious effort to pack these items separately in something distinctive. After a long and tiring day, the last thing you will want is to spend two hours searching for the kids pyjamas!
3. Don't forget to put aside a roll of toilet paper which can be used at the new property - easily forgotten but extremely necessary on moving day!
4. Permanent markers are an essential tool to help locate items - write on every side of the box as it will make things easier to find. Use one colour to label which room the box should end up in and another for the main contents.
5. Where possible, start to dismantle furniture that is not essential. The last thing you will take apart is the beds and this can be done the night before moving day.
6. Put stickers on large items of furniture so the removers know what room to put them in at the other end.
7. Bubble wrap is great for your valuables but items such as bedding and towels can be just as effective and take up less room. Just take extra care when unpacking! It's amazing how simple (and secure) it is to move your jewellery hidden inside some socks!
8. Pay your local bills such as newspaper delivery, milk, etc. where applicable and ensure future deliveries are cancelled.
9. The best thing to pack your clothing, shoes, linens, etc. in is strong bin liners. Sometimes the removal company will provide cardboard wardrobes which you can use for all clothing you have on hangers, which saves a lot of time packing time.
10. Cling film (the moving variety not the one for your sandwiches) is great for wrapping items such as sofas, mattresses, etc. to prevent scuffing and stains.
11. You can even use cling film to wrap drawers and CD racks with the contents in them, to save having to pack and unpack these separately.
12. Make arrangements for refreshments and food on moving day. Keep the kettle, sugar, tea, coffee and milk aside with some mugs and biscuits. And plenty of cold drinks if the weather will be hot.
13. Plan your journey between your old and new property. Even if you know the way, everyone who is helping you move may not. Look out for useful landmarks, such as shops, to help the removers find the property.
14. Prepare a note for the new owners explaining how things work and where they can find useful items such as the boiler switches, aerial sockets and alarm codes. A few kind thoughts will go a long way and injects some humanity into the whole process.