

ULTIMATE FAMILY MOVING CHECKLIST

Everything you need for a smooth,
stress-free move with children.



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6 WEEKS BEFORE MOVING DAY

- ☐ **Book your removalists:** Choose carefully, ideally, an Australian Furniture Removers Association (AFRA) accredited company. Set your budget, get a written quote, and organise moving transit insurance.
- ☐ **Arrange insurance:** Set up contents and household insurance for your new home. Check coverage for key risks like bushfires, floods, and storms.
- ☐ **Schedule moving day off work** (and for helpers, if applicable)
- ☐ **Update your address:** government, utilities, childcare etc
- ☐ **Declutter:** Dispose of unwanted items.
- ☐ **Prepare an inventory:** List everything you own and highlight fragile or valuable items needing special care.
- ☐ **Start preparing your child emotionally:** Talk positively about the new school and suburb.
- ☐ **Visit the new school grounds:** If possible, take a casual walk or tour to make it feel familiar.
- ☐ **Connect with local families:** Arrange playdates with children who already attend the new school.
- ☐ **Organise documents:** Create a folder for important legal, financial, medical, and school records.
- ☐ **Set up mail redirection:** Arrange through Australia Post.
- ☐ **Cancel or transfer subscriptions:** Newspapers, magazines, and deliveries.
- ☐ **Schedule repairs:** Pre-plan any necessary property maintenance.
- ☐ **Book council clean-up:** Arrange a hard rubbish collection if needed.
Confirm settlement or key collection time with real estate agents or lawyers.
- ☐ **Transfer records:** Gather medical, dental, veterinary, and school records.
- ☐ **If travelling:** Arrange passports, visas, tickets, foreign currency, and accommodation.

4 WEEKS BEFORE MOVING DAY

- ☐ **Check appliances:** Review moving instructions for your washing machine and other large items.
- ☐ **Use up perishables:** Finish food in your pantry and freezer.
- ☐ **Plan your new space:** Create a floor plan for furniture placement. Measure spaces particularly doorways and large appliances like your fridge.
- ☐ **Clear storage areas:** Don't forget garages, sheds, under the house.
- ☐ **Let kids help pack:** Give them a few boxes to pack their own toys and books.
- ☐ **Handle hazardous items:** Empty gas cylinders, dispose of flammable liquids like garden chemicals and paints.
- ☐ **Protect valuables:** Plan to personally transport jewellery, important documents, and sentimental items.
- ☐ **Return borrowed items:** Library books, rentals, etc.
- ☐ **Consider storage:** Research short-term storage options if required.
- ☐ **If renting:** Book an end-of-lease property inspection and professional cleaners.
- ☐ **Review car insurance coverage.**
- ☐ **Packing support:** Consider hiring professional packers and unpackers to assist.

PACKING TIPS

- ☐ **Arrange delivery of cartons and packing materials** (labels, tape, bubble wrap, butcher's paper).
- ☐ **Always use clean white paper** (not newspapers) to prevent stains.
- ☐ **Label every box with contents and destination room.**
- ☐ **Create an inventory list for each carton.**
- ☐ **Mark fragile boxes clearly.**

- ☐ Pack heavy items in small boxes, lighter items in larger ones.
- ☐ Dismantle furniture and tape screws securely or place them in a labeled "Essentials" carton.
- ☐ Label every box with contents and destination room.

2-3 WEEKS BEFORE MOVING DAY

- ☐ Create a moving-day countdown calendar with your kids (helps them visualise the timeline).
- ☐ Create a "First Box" (pack last, open first!) with:
Tools to assemble furniture, pet needs (leads, bowls), essential toiletries, phone chargers, medications, snacks, lightbulbs, scissors, tools, toilet paper, bin bag, Towels, bed linen, children's toys and essentials
- ☐ Update your address with banks, insurers, loyalty programs, online shopping accounts.
- ☐ Return rentals and borrowed items.
- ☐ Organise care for children and pets on moving day (family, friends, babysitters).
- ☐ Confirm internet, phone, gas, and electricity transfers.
- ☐ Change address with your bank.
- ☐ Arrange boat/trailer transfers if needed.
- ☐ Fill prescriptions for any upcoming medications.
- ☐ Cancel or update services: Deliveries, subscriptions, payment plans.
- ☐ Book a locksmith to change locks at your new home.
- ☐ Request time off work for moving day.
- ☐ Ensure property is professionally cleaned before moving in.
- ☐ Disassemble outdoor equipment: Trampolines, cubby houses, swing sets.
- ☐ Buy any new school uniforms, shoes, or supplies if needed.
- ☐ Talk through the first day at the new school: Uniform, start time, transport plan, lunch arrangements (if relevant)

1 WEEK BEFORE MOVING DAY

- ☐ Lightly water indoor plants and pack them securely.
- ☐ Confirm all moving details with your removalist: Arrival time, addresses, parking instructions.
- ☐ Arrange parking access for moving trucks.
- ☐ Remind kids what moving day will look like (who will be where, what they can help with).

DAY BEFORE MOVING DAY

- ☐ Defrost and clean your fridge and freezer.
- ☐ Pack personal and essential items for the next day in an overnight bag.
- ☐ Unplug appliances and secure cords.
- ☐ Have cash handy for last-minute expenses.
- ☐ Say goodbye to neighbours.
- ☐ Prepare comfort bags for kids: Favourite toys, books, snacks, water bottles.
- ☐ Finalise your action plan for moving day.

MOVING DAY

- ☐ Keep "First Box" within reach.
- ☐ Provide floor plans and clear directions to removalists.
- ☐ Ask movers to load the kitchen last so they're first off the truck.
- ☐ Ensure all utilities are turned off and doors locked at your old property.
- ☐ Return keys to the real estate agent.
- ☐ Remove any garage remotes from your car.
- ☐ Read and record meter readings.
- ☐ Check cupboards, sheds, garages for missed items.

WELCOME TO YOUR NEW HOME!

- ☐ Supervise unloading and direct furniture placement.
- ☐ Document property condition if renting.
- ☐ Verify utility connections (electricity, gas, water, hot water service).
- ☐ Assemble beds as soon as you can – especially for tired kids.
- ☐ Celebrate little wins: “First night in our new home!”
- ☐ Change locks if concerned about security.
- ☐ Introduce yourself to your new neighbours and explore your community!
- ☐ Walk or drive past the new school before the first day to ease first-day nerves.
- ☐ Plan a relaxed first school week: familiar meals, early nights, and extra cuddles.
- ☐ Notify your mover immediately if anything is missing or damaged.

NOTES: