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How to simplify your next home move

10 practical tips to make your next move smoother and more manageable

Moving to a new home is an exciting step, but it also comes with the daunting task of packing. Whether scaling up, scaling down or just changing locations, transferring all your belongings can be overwhelming.

Here are 10 practical tips to make your next move smoother and more manageable.

1: Declutter your space

The first step in simplifying your move is decluttering. This process helps you determine what to bring along and what to discard. Over time, we tend to accumulate items that end up stashed away in cupboards and drawers. Moving provides an opportunity for a fresh start. Make the task manageable by tackling one room at a time. As you sift through your items, decide what to keep, donate, sell or recycle.

2: Organise your items

After decluttering, it's time to get organised. Instead of packing immediately, list what you'll be bringing to your new place. You can categorise your list room by room to prevent it from becoming overwhelming.

Your lists can be as detailed as you want. For instance, in the kitchen, you can list main items like the toaster and kettle. For smaller items like plates, consider sub-categorising them into everyday plates, serving plates, everyday cutlery and serving cutlery. This technique ensures nothing gets overlooked.

As a pro tip, add two tick boxes next to each item. The first box is for packing, and the second is for unpacking. This way, you can ensure everything is accounted for.

3: Start early

Packing can be a time-consuming task. To avoid last-minute rushes and stress, begin as early as possible.

4: Book your removal company

Book their services in advance if you plan to use a removal company. These companies can get busy, and some may even have waiting lists. It's generally advised to book four to six weeks before your moving date.

5: Prepare your packing materials

Preparation is key when it comes to packing. To start, gather all necessary packing materials. Cardboard boxes of various sizes are a good starting point. They're affordable and recyclable. Invest in re-usable plastic boxes for heavier items.

Make sure you have permanent markers for labelling and enough packing tape to seal each box. Bubble wrap or packing foam might be necessary for fragile items.

6: Tackle one area at a time

Breaking your home into individual rooms will make the packing process much less daunting. Start with the rooms you use least and work through to the ones you use most often. This way, once a room is packed, you can move on to the next without any unfinished bits and pieces left to do in the space you just completed.

7: Label things clearly

Label each box with its contents before you seal it. Be as detailed as possible to locate things quickly once you arrive at your new home. Also, label which room each box should be placed in at your new place. This will make it much easier to sort things as each box is unloaded. Don't forget to label whether a box contains fragile items or if it should be placed a certain way up to avoid damage.

8: Pack smart

Consider some hacks to make packing different items easier. For example, when packing clothes, gather the hangers, tie the

tops together, and drape a bin liner over the top. Tucking pairs of socks inside shoes is also a great space saver, and packing heavier items at the bottom of boxes is best to avoid squashing or damaging soft, light items.

9: Get a spare set of keys cut

Get a spare set of keys cut for your new place to keep with you at all times. This will ensure quick access if you are locked out during the move.

10: Pack an overnight bag

Moving days are tiring. Pack an overnight bag of essentials for moving day to avoid rummaging around a sea of boxes to find things you need. Include toiletries, a towel, clothes for the first night and the next morning, and chargers for your phone and laptop.

For children, pack an essentials bag with clothing, snacks and their favourite toys. For pets, have their bowls, toys and bed at hand. Also, transport your mattress with a fresh sheet already fitted and pack your duvet in its cover so you can get straight into bed after a long day of hard work. ■

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