

One month before the move

Plan your moving budget.

Gather moving supplies - e.g. newspapers, bubble wrap, boxes, tape, scissors, rope/string.

Start packing items that will not be used before the move label boxes with their contents and the room to which it will be delivered. Number the boxes and keep a list of what is in each box. Write 'fragile' on boxes containing items that need more care when moved.

Place legal, medical, and insurance records in a safe and accessible place.

Fill any prescriptions that will be required a week before and a week after the move.

Collect items you no longer want to keep and give them to the local charity, or have a garage sale, or take them to your local tip.

Inform phone, electricity, gas, water providers of the move.

Notify the following people/companies of your new address:

- All your friends and family
- Banks, insurance companies, and other financial institutions
- Inform doctors, dentists and other service providers
- Newspaper and magazine subscriptions

Find new homes for any plants that are not being relocated.

Start using any frozen food and perishable goods.

Organise child care for the day of the move if necessary.

Moving can be very traumatic for pets – arrange to have someone look after them the day before and the day after the move.

If possible, take pictures or video of your belongings, record serial numbers.

Inform your insurance company of the settlement date, ask if moving is covered and arrange insurance for your new home.

The week of the move

Pack all essential items and have all boxes clearly labelled by now.

Drain fuel from lawn mower, empty gas cylinders/bottles.

Collect any dry cleaning, and return any library books or videos/DVDs.

Use or dispose of any food you will not be taking with you.

The day before the move

Defrost your freezer, empty and clean out your refrigerator.

Do the laundry.

Pack your last couple of boxes.

Pack a small moving bag to keep with you containing the following: snacks, water, mobile phone, wallet, first aid items, wet weather gear, tape, keys, change for road tolls if required, and emergency phone numbers.

Pack a box of essentials for when you arrive at your new home e.g. tea, coffee, sugar, kettle, mugs, cutlery, paper plates and plastic cups, long life milk, breakfast items, garbage bags.

Make sure that sheets and pillowcases are easily accessible to make beds for your first night in your new home.