



The Coral Homes
cleverliving
team

NEWS FROM THE HOME FRONT

Preparing for a smooth move

Presented by Jillian Haramina from the Coral Homes *Clever Living* team

Now that your new home is finished, it's time to make the big move! You've probably been dreading moving for some time, however moving house doesn't need to be all that stressful. A little preparation can go a long way to making the process run a whole lot smoother.

Nobody loves the process of moving house. Besides the obvious friction caused by uprooting your family and placing them into a new area with new people, nobody likes the manual work required to pack, shift and unpack a household full of items to a completely new location. Even if you have employed the services of a removalist, chances are you will still need to get involved in preparing for the move.



Packing shouldn't be left to just a few days prior to moving day. Anything you can pack ahead will save you time on moving day. For example, if you are moving in summer, pack all your winter clothes and get them out of the way. Perhaps you could do without other items you don't need for a few weeks such as books and ornaments on shelves. Such packing could begin weeks in advance of the actual moving date. So if you haven't started packing by now, you should get cracking!



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You're going to need lots of boxes. In fact, you'll probably end up needing more boxes than you think, so don't be afraid to overestimate when sourcing them, as it will make your life a lot easier. Leave aside 10 spare boxes for last minute items on the day of moving such as bedding, clothing and cleaning supplies. In addition to boxes, you'll also need plenty of packing tape, packing paper and bubble wrap. Luggage or other travel bags are great to use as extra boxes. They can be filled with clothing, sheets, towels or paper goods.

Write a list of the items that go into each box. You can create a simple record keeping system using numbers. Using a notebook, each page can represent a separate box. Write a number at the top of each page, and then clearly write the corresponding number on the outside of the relevant box. Each page in the notebook contains a fairly specific list of the items in that box. This process will take a little extra time, however you'll thank yourself later for it when you start unpacking and want to find something specific.

Designate a colour to each box according to the room the contents belong to in the new home. This will help co-ordinate delivery, particularly if you are using the services of a removalist or other family members. A coloured sticker should be applied to the box and a matching sticker applied to the door of the relevant room in the new house.

Box contents should not only be room-specific. Each one should contain like items which are related or used together. For example, pack bookends with books and pack extension cords with appliances. Even items such as picture hooks should be attached to pictures for the move. Any small items which don't have a partner can be packed into a separate box clearly labelled "Assorted Bits" which might contain various cables, cords, parts, brackets or nails.



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Pack heavier items towards the bottom of your boxes, and lighter items towards the top. Also, try to pack heavier objects into smaller boxes and lighter objects into larger boxes. Don't make your boxes too heavy, as you will risk breaking them when moving. If you have plates, they should be packed on end vertically, rather than placed flat and stacked.

Take good care of your valuables, especially if you are using a removalist. Ideally these items should be taken with you and kept close at hand. However, if you are using a removalist, place your valuables into the bottom of a box and label the box "Misc Kitchen" or something else not related (make sure you remember where they are). These valuables might include photos, jewellery, birth certificates, bank records or bills.

You could designate each of the kids with a set of brightly coloured, or clearly labelled boxes in which to place their favourite belongings. Along with their favourite items, these boxes should also contain anything the kids will need straight away when they get to the new house such as bed sheets, towels, a wet pack and tissues. Get the kids to write their new address on each box so they can become familiar with their new street and town. Keep them involved by encouraging each child to plan his or her new bedroom.

One of the last things you will need to do prior to moving is to prepare the fridge. Clean the inside out with warm, soapy water and dry it thoroughly. To keep it nice smelling for the duration of the move, place some fresh coffee, baking soda, charcoal or vanilla extract inside. Secure the doors with tape or rope, but keep the doors slightly ajar with a can or empty cup to avoid mildew growing inside. The fridge should always be moved in an upright position.



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If you are doing the move yourself, make sure with heavier objects that you lift correctly to avoid injury. Remember to always keep your back straight and bend at your knees and hips. If you are unsure about lifting an object, always get someone to help. You don't want to injure yourself in the moving process. With objects such as cupboards and chest of drawers, always empty out the contents and secure any doors and drawers before moving.

Moving your cat or dog can be more stressful for them than it is for you. You might want to consider putting them into a boarding kennel for a few days until you have the new place set up and the pets can adjust to their new surroundings and make themselves at home. Moving pot plants can also be a problem. If you're using a car, try not to let the foliage rest against the windows as the leaves may scorch in the sun. Give your pots a good watering before they are packed as they may not receive water for a prolonged period.

You can see how simple things can go a long way making your big move less traumatic. Good preparation is the key to a successful move. Even if you prepare well and have a smooth move, you probably still won't love the process. Nobody does. However, by being well prepared, at least you have minimised the stress on yourself and your family, which means you can spend more time looking forward to the pleasure of your brand new home!



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