

NEW HOUSE CHECKLIST FEEL AT HOME WHEN

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MOVING IN

Abstract

Congratulations on securing a new house. Finding a home can be very stressful, not to mention packing to make the move. Fortunately, there are some steps to follow to save money on the move and some tried and true advice on what to do when you actually arrive at your new location.

I. Introduction

These days, change is the only constant and when it happens, people aren't afraid to pack up their belongings and find new digs. Is your family growing? Are you in search of lower rent or moving to live in a better home? Has a new job or job transfer landed you in a new city? Whatever the reason for your move, getting everything you own from one home to another can be difficult to orchestrate. So, rather than just play it by ear and hope everything gets done in time, it's a good idea to make a solid plan well in advance of your move. What kinds of things should be included in your relocation strategy? Find out on the following pages.

Take Care of Address Change Details First

Once you've unpacked your last box at your new home, you might consider celebrating with a drink, a nice meal or by collapsing on your newly arranged couch. The last thing you want in that moment is to find more tedious tasks on your to-do list. Save yourself the annoyance by taking care of your change of address requests first. They rarely take effect immediately, so notifying the post office, bank and other important contacts -- like the subscription office of your favorite tabloid -- before you begin packing will ensure everything is updated and in order by your move-in date.

Make a Master List of Moving Tasks

Everyone knows it's easier to remember what you need to do if you sit down and make a list. Also, that gives you the opportunity to check off to-do items as you go, which is always satisfying. When you've got kids and pets to consider, there are a lot of things to remember. A list will help you organize your thoughts, and it should be made several months in advance of your move. And including deadlines is paramount. Some items need to be done before others, so schedule deadlines accordingly and then stick to them. While you're in list-making mode, make an inventory of what you're moving for insurance purposes. This inventory will be helpful as you unpack, as well, to ensure you're not missing anything.

Don't Pay For Packing Supplies

Moving is a lot of work and, even if you're moving to a more affordable place, it can really drain your wallet. So why pay for moving supplies that you can get for free? Have you

estimated the number of boxes you will need for your belongings? Well, multiply that number by 20 percent, just to be safe, and start hitting up your local appliance or department stores. You might try your local grocery or package store as well, but avoid boxes that carried frozen foods or produce as they may have water damage or food stains. Ask someone when the store expects shipments. They may even volunteer to set some boxes and packing paper aside for you. After a few trips to the right store, you'll have all of the boxes, packing paper and bubble wrap you need without the high price tag. And as you're unpacking your boxes in your new home, be sure to flatten out each piece of packing paper to ensure you find every little piece, especially if you had help packing boxes.

Plan New Rooms as You Pack the Old

You won't be able replicate everything in your new home exactly the way it was in your old one, and who would want to anyway? Your new place is a fresh palette for new ideas. But taking pictures of every room before you start to pack up your old home will help you plan how to unpack. It will save you a lot of time, too. You can see what worked and remember what may be hidden in an unpacked box. Don't forget to take pictures of complicated electronic hook-ups to help you put them back together. If you can find a floor plan for your new home, you'll have an even more detailed plan.



Line Up Professional Movers

If you're short on time or you just hate the idea of walking up and down stairs with countless boxes -- or you're moving across the country -- you might want to look into hiring a professional moving company. While professional movers can be expensive, they don't have to be. Be sure to get quotes from several companies, and don't be shy about the fact that you're shopping around. Making companies aware that you're checking out the competition might just result in a lower quote. If you have flexibility on your moving date, ask if you can

wait to be added to a truck that is moving to the same area. This will reduce the cost. Finally, make sure you know your rights and purchase additional insurance if necessary.

Ask Your Friends to Help

Even if you hire movers, and especially if you don't hire movers, you'll need some other people to help you carry items out of your old house and into your new one. If you plan to rely heavily on friends to help with your move, you need to make sure they're committed to your plight. And you need to line them up early in the game. If you want help, it's best to schedule your move for a weekend day, when most people are off work. When your helpers arrive, have a plan in place for what each person should do -- assign each friend a particular set of boxes or a specific room to focus on. Be sure to thank each person individually and even better -- schedule some sort of formal thank you for everyone, such as a dinner out or a cookout at your new place the next weekend. They deserve it.

Get Your New Place in Tip-top Shape

If you're moving to a rental or a fixer-upper, there might be some plans you have for your new place. Whether you hope to paint, do minor repairs, conduct extensive renovations or simply give the place a nice squeaky-clean shine, try to do so before you move in. Any projects you have planned will be easier and faster if they're completed before your boxes and furnishings arrive. If you don't have time to get in there yourself, consider hiring some help who can complete your tasks while you finish packing for the move. You'll have a much better chance of making your plans a reality.

Read Up on How to Drive a Rental Truck

If you're going to drive your own rental truck or van, read up on how to drive it before you get out on the road. There are several things to keep in mind when you're driving a truck: First, if you normally drive a sedan, the truck is going to be much wider than what you're used to driving. It's also heavier than a car, so it won't stop as quickly. Be sure there's more than one car length between your truck and the vehicle ahead of you at all times. Pay attention to road signs regarding trucks, never pass a vehicle moving more than 40 miles per hour and, unless you're particularly adept at using your side-view mirrors, avoid backing up as much as possible -- it's tricky.

Have Rugs, Drapes and Slipcovers Cleaned

Moving is the perfect occasion to have some things cleaned that tend to go without cleaning for long periods of time. For example, if your couch has a cover that can be removed, you can send that cover and the cushion slipcovers to the cleaners for a good washing. The same goes for your rugs (depending on what they're made of). Drapes, shower curtains and bed

skirts are other fabric items that should be washed before they're moved. You don't want to bring dirty, dusty fabrics into your new home, so clean them before you move.

Purge

Do you have a plan for purging the pile of junk that has collected in your closets, garage and/or basement? If your home is a landfill, then you may need to schedule when you'll address each pile of junk over the next few months before the move. Go through each pile more than once, setting aside the definite throwaways during the first sweep and the less obvious throwaways during the next couple of sweeps. Many of the items can be given away to charity. Go online to see what local charities you'd like to support and figure out which ones will benefit most by what you have to donate. Don't forget to keep a record what you donate and get a receipt for your taxes. If you have more time on your hands, you can schedule a garage sale before your move.

II. Managing stress levels when moving house

Australians have been moving away from capital cities in record numbers during the COVID pandemic, with some of us seeking a change of scenery following lockdown or downsizing due to job losses.



Moving home is famously stressful — but there are a few tactics you can use to keep your stress levels down while making the move.

Accept that it's an emotional time

Human beings tend to dislike change, says Melbourne-based psychologist Sarah Godfrey, so if you're freaking out a bit ahead of the big move, cut yourself some slack.

Moving house can bring up "an incredibly complex range of emotions, from fear and anxiety about the change, to self-doubt about the decision, to grief and loss about the memories and the connections you have in the area", says Ms Godfrey, who is also co-chair of Griefline Australia.

"It's very usual to feel anxious and upset and distraught."

Avoid last-minute packing

Packing is nobody's idea of fun, but it can be simpler and less exhausting if you have some time to declutter your house or apartment first.

"There's no point putting the time, effort and money into moving items that you don't actually need in your new house," says Chelsea Smith, Melbourne-based organisational expert whose clients are often preparing to move.

She recommends starting the decluttering process "the minute you start to plan to move" — then working through the process slowly and steadily for a set chunk of time each day.

"What I like to do is set an alarm in my phone, work hard and fast during that hour's block, and the alarm goes off and I basically stop," says Ms Smith, who moved home in early 2021 with her husband and two kids.

"A little bit every night far outweighs trying to pack everything in one evening or weekend."

Get strategic with those boxes

If you can manage it, allow yourself a good chunk of time to pack.

"It's always a good idea to start packing at least a week before move, which helps ensure you're marking boxes properly," says Pushpal Singh, who runs a removalist business in Melbourne.

He recommends labelling boxes on three sides — the top, front and back — so the labels can be read whichever way they're stacked.

You can also reduce stress at the other end by resisting the temptation to throw everything into a box higgeldy-piggeldy. Try:

Packing items you won't need straight away first, so they're at the bottom of your boxes. ("If we're in summer, you can start to pack up your scarves," Ms Smith says. "And pack the fridge stuff last.")

Use bigger boxes to pack bulky items such as blankets or clothes — and save the smaller boxes for heavy and fragile small items such as books and glasses, Mr Singh recommends.

If you only have big boxes to work with, "pack weight with volume; for example, fill the bottom layer with books and the top layer with pillows, clothes or toys", Mr Singh adds. Combining items like this helps keep your boxes liftable, he explains.

Pack a special box for moving day

It's a classic stressful moment: Arriving in a new house with no idea where to find the phone charger, shampoo or your wallet.

Ms Smith recommends setting aside a special box filled with all the necessities you'll require immediately after your move (don't forget the loo paper!) — and travelling with those items separately, rather than lumping them into the moving van.

If you have kids, you might also want to pack some snacks and comfort items to help smooth the process.

Get used to the new area before you move

Feeling daunted by the prospect of new surroundings? Familiarising yourself with your new area before making the move can help.

"One idea is to drive around the suburb before you move," says Ms Godfrey. "Go and have coffee in the local cafes; start buying your groceries there, even."

Outgoing and proactive people tend to feel settled in their new surrounds more quickly, so consider taking the lead on meeting your neighbours: you might join an online community group, find a local playgroup, or strike up a conversation with other dog owners in the park.

And don't expect to feel settled overnight. It takes around six months to a year after a move to feel settled in, Ms Godfrey says.

"It's quite a long time to resettle into a new environment and a new house and make new friendships with neighbours and the community."

III. The Ultimate Change Of Address Checklist When Moving

Home relocation allows you to start a new life and fulfil all your dreams. Metropolitan cities like Melbourne offer great employment, education and entrepreneurship options to people of all ages. If you plan to move to Melbourne, make sure you do thorough research and find a suitable residential property at the best price.

If you have done all of this and prepping household belongings for a big move, do not forget to change your address. This is one of the most overlooked things because packing household belongings and arranging the right removalists in Melbourne seems more important for a successful move.



If you don't want to miss important communication after moving to your new home, consider this ultimate checklist and update your address.

Below is a list of entities that need to be notified about your new address before moving to the new house.

1. Post Office

Do not forget to update your new address at your post office before the final moving day. This will help you receive all the credential posts and mails at the right address. You can update your address by visiting the local post office a week before your moving day and request them to update your new residential address.

You can also change the address online and set a specific day to begin. Make sure you give all the necessary details to get the job done on time. Also, mention the name who will receive your mail when you are not around in your new abode.

Tip: Mail redirection may start within 3-4 business days of your submitted request, so make sure you do this at least 2 weeks prior to your move.

2. Phone & Internet Connection

There is no life without an internet connection, especially if you are working from home. So, make sure you update the new address with the phone and internet service provider.

If you have a landline at your old house, you need to inform the company about the new address. This will allow them to re-connect the service at your new place and send the bills on time.

Make sure you inform your broadband service provider at least 3-4 days before your actual move for the reconnection of internet service at your new house. It is good to plan everything ahead of time to make moving to Melbourne enjoyable.

3. Electricity, Water And Gas

These are the most necessary tasks you must do as soon as you know a new address and your final moving date. When you reach your new place, it is imperative to have basic utilities at home, such as electricity, water, and gas service.

While transferring these utility services, make sure you inform the company so that they can shut off the service at your old home at the end of your moving day and re-connect it to your new house the day before you move in.

4. TV Cable

When you reach the new place, you might need television to entertain yourself or your family members. Plus, kids love to watch cartoons, and you can't ignore updating your address when you are transferring your cable services.

5.Tax Companies

Update your new address with tax as well as revenue agencies before you move. All you need to do is to fill out the online form and mention your new address. If you are moving within Melbourne, visit Victoria's official government website and search for the directions. The process is super simple and quick.

6. DVM

According to the checklist, it is important to update your driving license and vehicle registration when moving to the new home. You can easily update the Victorian driver license online. All you need to do is to log in to your myVicRoads account to change your address in a matter of a few clicks. It is the safest way to update personal details.

If you want to transport your household belongings to a new place safely, hire trained Melbourne removalists at the best price.

7. Bank And Credit Card Companies

Inform your bank and credit card companies about your new address and request them to update your new residential address at least 2 weeks prior to your move. This will help you

get all the important details and communications without any hindrance. You can also do the same by visiting the official website.

Change the address on your own if you are using online banking via your internet baking app.

8. Insurance Company

Be sure you notify the insurance provider agencies in advance about your new address. This will make it easy for them to contact you and deliver important documents.

9. Friends & Relatives

Update your new address with your close friends and family members. You can also throw a housewarming party and invite all your friends, relatives and new neighbours to your new home.

IV. Things To Do When Moving Into A New House

It may seem like all of the preparation went into the set-up for the move, but it's not over just yet. Whether you found a top-tier moving company to move your things or used a cheaper service, long-distance moving can be overwhelming on its own, let alone moving into a new house. If you're moving locally, this isn't as much of an issue. Use this guide to ensure that you're ready for not just the moving process, but the move-in process as well.



1. Do a Walkthrough

If it's available to you, walking through your new house while it's empty is a helpful step before moving in. If the house was staged when you previously saw it, seeing it as a blank canvas gives you the opportunity to plan how your own belongings will fit in. Bring a tape measure to plan even more accurately where items like furniture will go—it will save you hassle when unloading the moving van later if you already know where things belong.

In addition to using the walkthrough as a vision board, it's important to note that all of the terms of the sale were completed. Check on any agreed-upon repairs, appliances that were supposed to be left (or were supposed to be taken out), working order of outlets, switches and fixtures, etc. If there's an issue, the sooner you bring it up with the appropriate party, the better.

If you're moving out of state and an in-person walkthrough isn't in the cards, schedule a virtual one with your realtor. Some companies also offer 3-D scans of living spaces so that you can take a digital tour on your own time, and measure dimensions from afar.

2. Take Safety Precautions for Children and Pets

If you're moving with young children or pets, you'll need to take extra steps to ensure their safety in a new environment. In addition to the standard things—like outlets, sharp edges, open doors and windows—keep an eye on temporary moving-specific hazards as well.

Make sure scissors and box cutters are far from reach, keep boxes with dangerous items (cleaning supplies, glass, etc.) in a separate space and ensure packing materials aren't confused for playthings.

3. Make an Unpacking Plan

It can be tempting to just dive right in, but when you just attack the boxes randomly you end up finishing the day with plates but no silverware, shirts but no pants and a hairbrush but no toothbrush.

Labeling your boxes ahead of the move is key, but so is planning what needs to be prioritized when you arrive at the new house. You might need kitchen items before you need to fill out the living room—unless you're okay with takeout and would prefer to have your TV set up first. Plan what you want to have ready and then unpack in that priority order.

4. Set up Utilities and Connectivity

You probably don't want to spend your first night in your new house in the dark, so make sure that you set up your utilities (electricity, heat, gas and water) to be ready for your move-in date. You'll also want to plan for Wi-Fi, phone connection and cable.

Some companies allow you to transfer service from one location to another (this is obviously impacted by how far you're moving), but sometimes you have to completely cancel one location before starting over at another.

Since these set-ups can require appointments, plan ahead so that if someone needs to come to your new house, it can happen as soon as you need it and you'll be there to assist.

5. Locate Necessary Functions

As the saying goes, hope for the best but prepare for the worst. Looking for your circuit breaker in a new home after the power has unexpectedly gone out isn't the best time. As you're moving in, make note of the location of the circuit breaker, fuse box and water valve.

Note where you have smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, and test them to make sure they're functioning properly. Also, determine an escape route for each member of your family if a fire did occur. If you moved to a location with natural disasters such as tornadoes, hurricanes, or earthquakes, come up with a plan of action and a place for shelter.

6. Set up a Security System

Speaking of safety, it's important that you feel safe in your new home. This means different things to different people, but some steps include changing locks so that prior residents don't have access, installing motion detectors or cameras, using a smart doorbell, or setting up a full-fledged home security system. There are even tools these days to help you gauge the safety of your neighborhood and help you decide on the appropriate course of action in terms of securing your new home.

7. Deep Clean

There's no better time to really get your home sparkling clean than when it's totally empty. You can attack every floorboard, every window sill, every nook and cranny. If you have the time in between closing and the moment your home is overrun with moving boxes, it's worth a scrub down.

8. Change Your Address

If you didn't already do this in the moving prep part of the process, make sure that you change your address for all communication. Forward your mail and update your credit card billing address—not just with your credit card company but also any services or retailers where your information is saved.

Communicate with important stakeholders like your bank and insurance provider, schedule a trip to the DMV and don't forget to share your new address with friends and family.

9. Explore the Community

Welcome to your new neighborhood. When you need a break from unpacking, take a stroll or drive to explore your new area. Look for the stores, community centers and points of interest that will become the new go-to spots for you and your family.

There are many social platforms available for neighborhood-specific connections. Join those to learn about the goings-on in your new location. Meeting your neighbors is not a lost art; being friendly with those around you can make your new house feel more like a home.

V. Small Changes To Make Your House Feel Like A Home

Your house is more than just a building that you live in. It should be a home that makes you feel welcome as soon as you open the front door.



Making your house feel like a home is not something that simply happens on its own. You need to make some changes to a house when you move in, to give it that cozy, warm feeling that turns it into a true home. To help you speed the process, follow this guide to 10 small changes to make your house feel like a home.

1. Make the Windows Your Own

When you move into a home, they often come with boring Venetian blinds or less than attractive curtains.

One of the best ways you can instantly warm your home and make it showcase your style is to add some new window dressing. Adding beautiful curtains not only improves your home's appearance, but it can also help to control the temperature.

2. Put up Some Art

If you have a lot of bare walls in your home, it will seem sterile no matter how beautiful your paint or wallpaper is.

Hanging art on the walls will instantly give it personality and make it feel like home.

3. Improve the Aroma

A house that is not filled with inviting smells will never feel like a home. There are loads of ways you can make your home smell nice. There are tons of air fresheners on the market you can use.

Incense and scented candles are a nice option as well. Don't forget that baking in a home is also a great way to fill it with an aroma that instantly smells like home as soon as you open the front door.

4. Put out Lots of Pillows and Throws

A great way to make your home look warm and inviting is to place lots of pillows and throws out on the furniture. It is much better to have too many pillows than not enough.

There is nothing like the feeling of sinking into a cushiony pillow that feels like a cloud to make you feel like you are at home.

5. Instantly Class up Your Closet

If your closet is filled with wire or plastic hangers, it will never truly feel homey. To instantly make your closet feel classy, change out your old hangers for wooden ones.

Not only do they look great, but they are better for hanging your clothes as well.

6. Improve Your Air Quality

One of the most overlooked ways to make your house feel more like a home is to improve its air quality.

The easiest and best way to upgrade the air quality in your home is to change the old, dirty filters in your furnace regularly. Get some air filters delivered to your home so that you always have some on hand.

7. Fill it with Plants

Another way to improve the air quality in your home is to fill it with plants. You should have plants in every room of your home.

They help to improve the air quality and they look beautiful. As well as making your home appear homier, plants also help to boost your mood and lower your stress levels.

8. Change the Doorknobs

Most people don't really give their doorknobs a second thought unless they are broken. That is a shame because changing your doorknobs is an easy way to add personality to your home.

Changing your old, boring doorknobs to new ones that are works of art will instantly brighten your home.

9. Upgrade Your Tub or Shower

There is nothing like luxuriating in a whirlpool bath or steam shower to make the cares of the day melt away. Your family deserves a bit of luxury when they are in their bathroom.

Install a new shower or tub today to make your bathroom worthy of a place in your home.

10. Fresh Cut Flowers

You can make any room in your house feel homier by placing a vase full of beautiful flowers in it. The gorgeous look and intoxicating aroma of fresh cut flowers will immediately brighten your day when you encounter them.

You don't have to make all these changes at once. Try one or two a day though, and your house will feel like a home before you know it. The trick is to constantly keep adding these homey touches to make your home a place worthy of its name.

VI. Throw a Memorable Housewarming Party

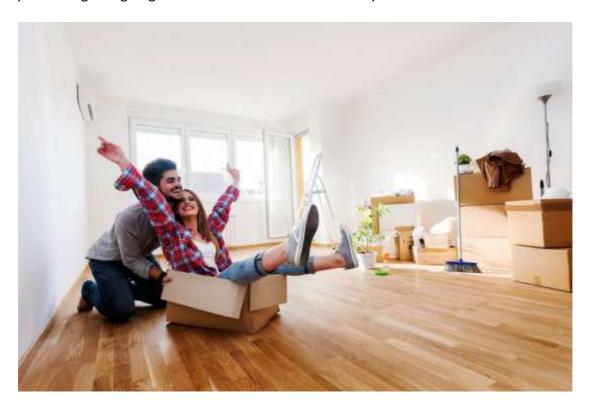
Moving into a new home or completing an extensive renovation is significant. Hosting a housewarming party is a great way to welcome your favorite people to see your new digs and fill your home with good vibes. It's time to break out the bubbly and celebrate. And, if you're new to the neighborhood, a housewarming can also be a way to meet your new neighbors. Sometimes, family, friends, or even neighbors might potentially throw you a surprise housewarming party.

You can expect that visitors want to tour your home. Offer some food and drinks and keep it simple. The same rules for hosting a party apply: introduce old friends to new ones, make everyone feel comfortable, and keep the conversation flowing. You might even consider a housewarming game. Read on for more tips for making your housewarming party memorable and fun for everyone.

Consider Invitations

If you are sending out paper or electronic invites, give good directions. If some guests do not have a car, spell out some public transportation options. Tell driving guests where to park

their cars. If you plan on having food or refreshments, note it in the invite. Many people can assume that if you host a party during major dining times, e.g., noon or 6 p.m., you will be serving a meal while there. Also, housewarming parties are usually open house shindigs with people coming and going—an hour here or there—within your timeframe.



Also, if you prefer not to get gifts, note it in the invite. If you do not say anything, it is natural for people to suppose that you are accepting gifts.

Housewarmings are usually casual events. Plan for a couple of hours during the day since it's easiest for people to see your home.

When to Host the Party

If you're hosting your housewarming party, there is no need to wait until your home is in perfect shape or until everything is unpacked. Your friends and family will understand that it takes time to get settled. The best timeframe is for a time where you don't feel rushed, your home is not in complete disarray, and your friends and family are likely available. It would help to have some furniture for seating, too. Don't rush into it.

In terms of party etiquette, a "housewarming" is usually within six months of moving in. After a year, you're probably pushing it and should call it a house party. Of course, if extenuating circumstances circumvented your housewarming plans, like major renovations after moving in or other life situations, call your gathering whatever you want.

Offer House Tours

Tours of your new home are the main attraction, so prepare your space for showing.

You can allow guests to give self-guided tours. Label each room with its name, purpose, and interesting details you'd like to show off.

If a room is off-limits like it's under construction or one big storage room, mark it "Please Do Not Enter."

If you've made extensive renovations to your home for fun, post a "before" picture outside each room. You could also post photos from when the rooms were under construction. People love to see the magical transformation.

A housewarming is one occasion where you are showing off your home. So, having a messy or clean house can leave a lasting impression. Clean or tidy up all of your rooms if you can. If you still have rooms with packed boxes, leave them as is. No one expects that all your moving boxes have to be unpacked.

If your home is historical or has some interesting stories you learned from the seller or realtor, give some of that background to your guests too.

Plan for Food

Offering food and refreshments is an excellent way to thank your guests for visiting your home. If it's summertime and you have a yard or outdoor patio, consider hosting a BBQ or outdoor party. Or, you can keep things indoors by offering casual finger foods. Serve different choices in each room. Then, as they discover your rooms, there will be edible surprises to keep them moving around.

If you have a small group, think about having a sit-down meal. If you like to cook, whip up a particular dish or cater in a few trays of food for an easier time. Keep in mind that people might have dietary restrictions, so having some vegan, vegetarian, dairy-free, nut-free, and gluten-free options might be a wise idea. You can also ask your guests to inform you of their food sensitivities so that you can be prepared in advance.

It's nice to offer your friends a selection of beverages. If you plan on having alcohol at the party, make sure you have non-alcoholic choices for people who choose not to drink. If friends bring wine or bottles of bubbly for your housewarming, it's at your discretion whether you open it that day or save it for a later time.

Gifts

The term "housewarming" is believed to have started in the Middle Ages. Back then, guests would literally warm up a new home by bringing firewood as a gift.

- Although etiquette dictates that housewarming guests should bring a gift unless noted in the invite, not everyone knows what's customary. If a guest asks you for gift ideas, you can point them to a housewarming registry if you have one. If you create a registry, make sure you have small ticket items on the list.
- Usually, guests bring a bottle of wine, champagne, or liquor to assist in building up your beverage station. People tend to get home and kitchen items or small custommade signs and decorations for gifts.
- The hard and fast rule is you should never expect gifts. Remember that gifting is always a personal, optional choice. The good wishes of your friends and family should always be enough.

Decorations: Keep It Simple

Special party decorations are unnecessary. You don't want to detract from the features of your new home. You can hang a welcome sign or "Home Sweet Home" banner with a few balloons, but beyond that, a few cheery floral arrangements are enough of an adornment.

It's more important that your home is straightened. If you had renovations, clean up all the construction dust. Make sure the kitchen and bathrooms are sparkling clean. Give carpets a good vacuuming, sweep and mop up, and dust the furniture.

Conclusion

Keep this checklist in mind and follow all the steps when relocating in Melbourne city. You can search for the best moving company as well and enjoy at your new space without any stress.

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