

Guide On How To Cut Relocation Costs At The End Of Lease



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Abstract

Relocating at the end of a lease can be both stressful and expensive, but with the right strategies, tenants can significantly reduce their moving costs. This guide explores practical and effective ways to cut relocation expenses, from planning early and decluttering to hiring cost-efficient removalists and leveraging end-of-lease cleaning services wisely. It also highlights the importance of comparing service quotes, packing smartly, and avoiding common pitfalls that can lead to unexpected charges. Whether you're moving across town or interstate, this guide provides actionable tips to ensure a smooth, affordable transition at the end of your lease.



1. Introduction

Moving out at the end of a lease can be a daunting process, especially when trying to manage the various costs involved. From hiring professional movers and cleaners to purchasing packing supplies and covering utility disconnections or reconnections, expenses can quickly add up. Many tenants find themselves overwhelmed not only by the physical effort of relocating but also by the financial strain it can cause. However, with careful planning and informed decisions, it is possible to minimize these costs and make the moving process more budget-friendly. This guide provides a step-by-step approach to help renters cut relocation costs without compromising on the quality of their move, ensuring a smooth and cost-effective end-of-lease transition.

2. Ways To Save Money On A Move



Moving is exciting, but it can also be stressful for more reasons than one. From finding the time and energy to box up all of your belongings, to picking a trustworthy moving service to safely transport them all from one place to the next, there are just so many factors to consider. On top of it all, if you're not prepared, moving can be a hefty financial burden to bear.

To make it all easier to handle, here are 10 ways to save money on your next move.

1. Estimate the Cost

Online moving calculators are a great way to help gauge approximately how much your move should cost. This is a good place to start before reaching out to different moving companies in Melbourne and getting quotes, as it will give you a solid median. Knowing roughly how much your move should cost will help prevent you from overspending by going with a bid that is otherwise, unbeknownst to you, way too high.

2. Avoid Buying Supplies

Purchasing boxes, paper and bubble wrap can really add up. However, you can cut down on your moving costs by getting creative with how you source these items. Consider asking neighbors and friends who have recently moved or are about to move—to save their boxes and any extra moving supplies for you. You can also stop by select retail locations like

grocery, furniture or appliance stores and ask if they have any boxes leftover from their recent deliveries. Try being resourceful by using what you already have. Items such as socks, towels, T-shirts and sweaters all work great as alternatives for wrapping glassware and protecting your valuables.

3. Host a Sale

Holding a yard sale is a great way to not only make money, but it can actually help save you money on your move, too. By taking the time to get rid of any clothes, furniture or other items that you don't want prior to your move, you create an opportunity to decrease the number of necessary movers, as well as possibly decrease the size of the moving vehicle that will be needed for your job.

All of these factors can impact the price of your move, so by selling unwanted items ahead of time, there's an opportunity to decrease your overall moving costs, while also earning a little cash to put toward the total expenses.

4. Utilize Media Mail

Books can be both bulky and heavy, which can make them difficult to pack and move. That said, the United States Postal Service offers Media Mail shipping as an easy and cost-effective solution to this dilemma. With Media Mail shipping, you're able to send 70 pounds of books for just over \$40. This is a great way to free up space in your moving truck for other items that would be much more expensive to ship.

5. Establish a Plan B

While you can try everything in your power to ensure a smooth move, there's always a possibility that your timeline, including your move-in date, could go awry at the last minute. Having a backup plan in place can actually help save you money in the long run.

For instance, you can make plans ahead of time to stay with a friend or family member, in case your move is delayed, so you don't end up paying expensive hotels fees. Additionally, consider choosing a long distance moving company in Melbourne with flexible options that won't charge you a fee for making a change on short notice.

6. Don't Pick the Lowest Bidding Movers

Considering that they're going to be responsible for safely and successfully transporting all of your belongings, you'll want to ensure that you're choosing from the best moving companies for your job. While you may be tempted to save money up front by selecting the movers with the lowest bid, doing so may actually end up costing you more in the long run.

A low bid might indicate low-quality work, which could end with your belongings showing up late, or even broken, meaning you could end up spending more money to repair or replace your valuables. You can save yourself money by choosing a more reputable contractor off the bat, with a bid that is more in the middle.

7. Pack Strategically



By packing in a way that utilizes fewer boxes, you can save space, time and, most importantly, money. Be tactical with your packing by nesting some items inside of others, rather than just thoughtlessly tossing all of your things into boxes.

With mindful packing, you'll be able to fit more items into a single box. By doing so, you can condense the number of total boxes you'll have to move, therefore, creating a possibility for using a smaller moving truck or moving container, and the smaller the vehicle, the more money you can save.

8. Cancel Your Utilities

Rather than worrying about timing your utility shut-off perfectly, or worse, getting stuck paying the cable and internet costs for two places at once, consider canceling your current services, and starting fresh.

Some internet and cable providers will offer specials and discounts for opening a new account. This is an opportunity to shop around for the best deals and see what providers in your new area can offer you. Some companies may even offer to wave your activation fees or provide free installations.

9. Ask for a Deal

While it may seem unconventional, it's not completely uncommon for moving companies to be willing to cut you a deal, so it's always worth asking. This is where shopping around can really pay off. See what deals different movers or best car shipping companies will offer you

depending on the type of move, and it's always worth asking if others can beat or match the best deal.

10. Consider the Cost of Moving Yourself

Moving can be a large financial burden and taking the time to really consider all of your options is important. If you're really looking to save money on your move, consider renting a moving vehicle and doing it yourself. At the very least, it's worth looking into prices and doing a cost comparison to determine how much money you can save by choosing this option.

3. Pack Like a Pro



Moving to a new place may be exciting, but packing can be tedious. The task doesn't have to be so bad when you know the right moving hacks and tips. The trick is to prepare for boxing and unboxing your stuff as painlessly as possible. Read on to find incredibly useful packing and moving hacks in Melbourne that reduce the stress and expense of relocating.

What Not to Pack in Boxes When Moving

It's tempting to toss anything and everything into boxes when moving. But there are quite a few items that should never go in a moving box, including:

- Open packages of perishable food (the box will attract pests)
- Valuables (jewelry, collectibles, coins, cash)

- Irreplaceable documents (personal identification, medical records, wills, financial documents, etc.)
- Flammable items (paint, solvents, batteries, any chemicals)
- Gardening supplies (weed killer and insecticides)

Start Packing Six Weeks Before Moving

Make a packing plan with a timeline. The sweet spot seems to be six weeks to pack and move. Here's the breakdown: Use the first three weeks to declutter, purge, and gather packing materials. Use the second three weeks to pack.

It can be done if you have less time than that—say you must move in three days. Take one day to purge, the next to gather supplies, and the third day to pack. It also helps to have a packing checklist to keep you on task and moving along.

Choose Between Boxes and Totes

Plan to use moving boxes and plastic totes. Totes are best if you are packing items that will go into long-term storage. If you prefer having an unlimited array of sizes for packing, boxes are best. Here are the pros and cons of each:

Boxes:

Pros: Cheaper than totes, efficient to flatten and remove, stackable, more readily accessible and available sizes

Cons: Fall apart easily (when wet, for example), can get crushed, can't see through, need extra materials such as tape, can't always reuse

Totes:

Pros: Long-lasting, reusable, good for long-term storage, durable, stackable (for the most part), transparent

Cons: Expensive, susceptible to cracks, caves under weight, heavy to lift/move when stuffed, depending on the design, some may not stack well

Purge Before You Pack

You can pack fast if you purge fast. Purging before you pack will substantially streamline your packing time. And don't purge while you pack, or you'll overthink the process.

Where to start? Here are a few types of items (other than what's in your closet) you might want to toss or donate so you can get packing and have a fresh start in your new digs:

- Throw pillows (they may become misshapen when packed)
- Curtains (ditch the dingy ones for a refresh)
- Decor that doesn't spark joy
- Unread, unwanted, and dusty old books
- Old, stained, and unused rugs
- Chipped dishes and glasses
- Broken small appliances you "want" to fix one day

Donate Large Items That You Don't Want

It's a relief when you get free help from charity organizations happy to remove your couch or furniture pieces and haul them away. Your former treasures take on new life and can help others while removing the hassle of having to move them.

Rent Moving Boxes



If you've moved before, you know the cost of boxes, labels, and shipping tape can add up quickly. Scoring free moving boxes in Melbourne is a real money saver, but they're not always easy to find. Renting plastic moving boxes is a smart alternative. Companies like Gorilla Bins offer two-week rental packages based on your home size. Packages typically include:

- Moving bins in both medium and large sizes
- Zip ties (so you don't need packing tape)
- Peel and stick labels
- Free delivery and pick up

Places that rent plastic boxes usually wash them between rentals. If you're a germaphobe, some companies, like Bin It and A Smart Move, sanitize after cleaning.

Hack a Vacuum Space Bag

Things like pillows, blankets, and puffy goose-down jackets take up lots of space when packing. When you compress these items, you can pack more lightweight stuff into fewer boxes. The problem is vacuum space bags cost money. A set of three large bags runs about \$20.

But you can DIY them in a few seconds. Here are the quick steps to making vacuum space bags:

- Place an item in a garbage bag.
- Put a vacuum hose into the bag.
- Create a seal by holding the bag's opening around the hose so that no air gets in and out.
- Turn on the vacuum and watch it suck the air out of the bag.
- Once the bag is flat, secure the open end with a rubber band.

Label and Take Photos as You Pack

Packing and labeling your stuff by room is a smart plan. But if you have 10 kitchen boxes, which one has the vegetable peeler? To avoid this problem, create a detailed spreadsheet that lists each box's contents. It may sound time-consuming, but some unique moving hacks include taking photos of box contents and using a packing app.

Spreadsheet and photos: The easiest way to pack when moving is to organize by photographing the stuff that goes into a box before packing using your smartphone or tablet. To make this trick work, you'll need to give the photo and the box the same name for easy reference, for example, kitchen box #5.

Packing app: You can also use an organizing app, like Sortly, designed to make moving more orderly. It lets you create visual inventory lists for each box you pack using photos and

printable QR code labels. When you scan the latter using your smartphone or tablet, the app will share pictures of the box's contents.

Make Peeling the Sticky End of Tape Easier

Locating the sticky end of a roll of shipping tape can be challenging and annoying when the tape tears off into chunks or stringy shreds. You can avoid this problem by using a toothpick to mark where to peel.

- Place the toothpick horizontally on the tape's sticky side about 1/2 inch from the end.
- Fold the end of the tape under so it covers the toothpick.

3.1. How to Get Free Moving Boxes



Moving is already a burdensome and costly process, but you can make it easier and slightly cheaper by finding free moving boxes! Instead of spending money and time on buying new boxes, ask around for free ones and help people get rid of used cardboard. Check your local retail stores, grocery and liquor stores, fast food restaurants, and garage sales. Talk to your friends, family, neighbors, and community groups, in addition to posting online on message boards, to find free boxes quickly!

Finding Free Moving Boxes Locally

Check the nearest office supply store. Office supplies often require strong boxes, and typically come with a lot of packing material. Drop by Staples, Office Depot, or any office supply store close by. Ask to speak to a manager, and see if they have any free boxes they don't use.

Go to bookstores for sturdy boxes. Books are quite heavy, and carrying them often requires thick and durable cardboard boxes. If you live in a big city, chain bookstores like Barnes&Noble might be good options, since they usually get a shipment once or twice a week.

Visit grocery stores for wooden boxes. Most stores want to get rid of their boxes since they occupy space. At a grocery store, you have a good chance of finding wooden grocery boxes, as well as cardboard boxes.

Ask bars and liquor stores. You can use liquor boxes for carrying heavy items like your glassware. However, make sure to ask for boxes with lids, since many liquor boxes tend to have their tops removed.

Get fry boxes from fast food restaurants. Fry boxes can be very versatile for hauling heavy items like books in small amounts. Ask your local McDonald's or Burger King if they have any extra fry boxes. Since the fries are carried in frozen form, you don't need to worry about the smell or grease.

Visit chain coffee shops. Popular coffee shops like Starbucks are likely to have regular shipment, once or twice a week. Talk to a barista when there isn't a long line of customers. If they don't have any boxes then, ask for when the next shipment will come in, and see if they'd be willing to reserve any boxes for you.

Stop by a garage sale. If you come across a yard sale in your neighborhood, ask if they have any free boxes they don't use. Chances are they just cleaned up their attic and are left with a bunch of boxes.

Browse around your local recycling center or the post office. People often leave their boxes where they receive mail, or anywhere recycling is collected, so these might be good spots to find plenty of boxes.

Ask your local schools if they have boxes to give away. The cafeterias might have food boxes and the administrative offices might have supply boxes. You'll do them a favor by helping them get rid of throwing those away.

4. Loading a Moving Truck



Many people rent trucks rather than hire professional movers to reduce moving costs. It's an economical option, but it requires you to pack the truck properly so that your items don't shift and break during the drive. In this guide, we'll offer tips for packing a moving truck, from loading heavy items safely to filling empty space.

Before You Pack the Moving Truck

For a smoother process, take these steps before you start packing your moving truck.

Ensure You Have the Right Size Truck

Confirm your truck is the right size for the amount of stuff you're moving in Melbourne. A truck that's too small can result in multiple trips or force you to leave things behind, while a truck that's too large can lead to wasted space and higher fuel costs.

To determine the right size truck for your move, consider the number of rooms you are moving, the size and quantity of your furniture, and any other large items you'll be transporting. Most truck rental companies post size guides on their websites.

Gather Necessary Packing Materials

In addition to purchasing materials such as furniture pads, boxes, and packing paper, think through what you'll need to load and secure your items in the truck. Your future self will

thank you for adding lifting straps and a dolly to your truck rental. You will also need tie-down ropes or ratchet straps. If you expect the moving process to take multiple days, consider investing in a padlock to secure the back of the truck.

Take Inventory of Your Belongings

Create a list of your items, including their size, weight, and any special considerations. For instance, you should note which items are delicate or expensive. If you plan to transport anything that moving companies typically won't move, check with the truck rental company first. Your rental agreement may prohibit transporting certain items, such as hazardous materials or extra-large items.

Label Boxes Clearly

Use a permanent marker to label each box by its contents and the room where it belongs. This will tell you exactly where each box goes when unloading the truck. Additionally, you can use color-coded labels to help you quickly identify which boxes contain fragile items or need to be unpacked first.

Create a Clear Pathway

Before you load the truck, clear a pathway from your home to the truck. This will make carrying items to the truck easier and help prevent accidents or injuries. Remove any obstacles or tripping hazards, and ensure the pathway is well-lit if you're loading during the evening or early morning.

When You Pack the Moving Truck

A strategic approach to packing will help you avoid unpleasant surprises on your moving day.

Load Heaviest Items First

By loading heavier items first, you can ensure they're properly secured and won't shift during transit.

Start by loading appliances and large pieces of furniture like sofas, dressers, and bed frames if you're bringing them. Place them toward the front of the truck, near the cab, and along the sides.

Once you secure heavy furniture, move on to large but lighter items, such as box springs and headboards. Then, load boxes. Start with the heaviest boxes and stack lighter boxes on top. Avoid stacking heavy boxes on top of fragile items, such as TVs.

Use Furniture Pads and Blankets

To protect your furniture and other large, unboxed items, tightly wrap each piece in furniture pads and moving blankets. Secure the pads or blankets in place with packing tape or straps. This will help prevent scratches, dents, and other damage during transit.

Secure Items With Straps and Tie Downs

As you load items onto the truck, secure them with straps and tie-downs. Tighten the straps and tie-downs securely, but do not overtighten them, as this can damage fragile items. This will help prevent items from shifting or falling during transit, which can damage your belongings or the truck itself.

Fill Gaps Between Items

Leaving extra room between items makes it possible for things to shift during transit. Stack items tightly to avoid gaps, and fill empty spaces with boxes or packing materials.

5. Top Tips to Make Sure You Get Your Bond Back



There comes a time in every student's life that they dread. No, not exams—we're talking about when it's time to move out in Melbourne of your accommodation. You paid a lot when you moved in, and you want to make sure you get reimbursed the full amount of the security deposit that you paid when you move out, so we've got some tips for you so you can make sure you get your bond back.

Read your lease

Read it carefully. Make sure everything that's in there is reasonable, and so you know what to expect. It might say the ceilings need to be cleaned at the end of your tenancy, or the windows have to be cleaned inside and out, so it's a good thing to check to make sure of your obligations before you start living there.

Fill out the property condition report accurately

As soon as you move in. Include everything. It may take some time, but it'll be worth it in the long run. [dfp_ads id=9505] Make note of absolutely every crack, dent, and smudge that you come across, just in case, so they're at least logged and don't come back to bite you when your lease is up.

Take photos of the property yourself

Paying special attention to any cracks, anything broken, any missing fittings. Send a copy of these to your property manager.

Fix issues as they arise

If you break something, arrange for your landlord to fix it as soon as possible. Or, if it's in your agreement, fix it yourself. For example, if you break a window, don't wait until you move out for the landlord to fix it—let your landlord know immediately. You may have to pay to get it fixed, but if you can arrange the quote it's generally going to be cheaper than if the real estate company has to get one.

Make sure you pay all your rent

We know that it isn't always possible to pay your rent on time, every time, but just be sure that you do pay it. This way it won't be deducted from your bond when you vacate the property.

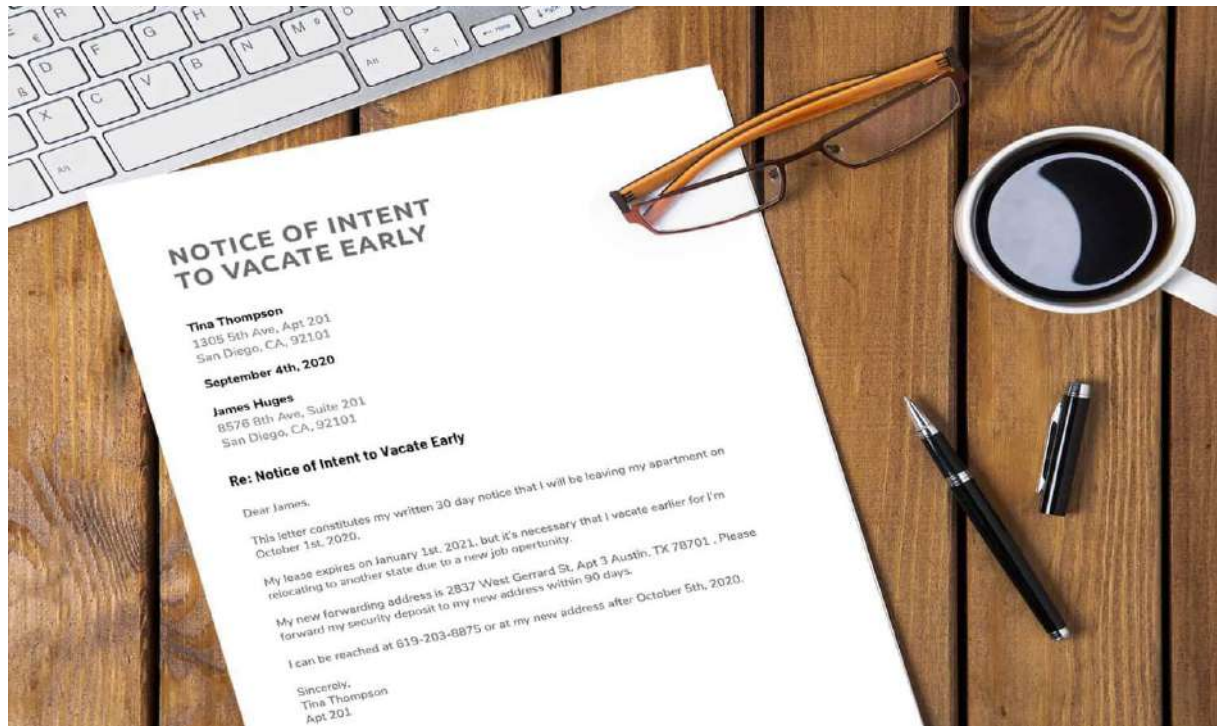
Don't lose the keys!

Lost keys can come out of your bond, so be sure to return all sets of keys that you were given at the start. If you do lose a key, be sure to get a spare key cut as soon as possible.

Clean during your tenancy

It may sound obvious, but it's a lot easier to remove a stain if you get onto it right away than if you leave it until the week before you move out. It might not be fun at the time, but ensuring you keep the place in good condition while you're living there can save you hours of hard, boring work in the long run.

Give proper notice that you'll be leaving



If you break the lease early and haven't paid the break fee, you might be liable to have that taken out of your bond. Do the right thing and notify your landlord, in writing, within the given timeframe stated in your contract.

Normal wear and tear on a property is okay

After all, you've been living there, not renting the place just for show. Faded curtains, flaking paint, a worn kitchen bench top, or thin cracks in the walls from building movement are all considered normal damage. Smudges on the walls, burn marks on the carpet, wine stains in the floor, and an overgrown garden (if you have that luxury) are not. Give the whole place a really good clean, to a professional standard, when your lease is up and you should be okay.

Give yourself time to clean

When you're moving out, don't leave it to the last minute—work out a plan of attack, and go for it. It's much less stressful if you spend your whole last week carefully cleaning than if you rush around on the last day trying to get things done. Clean the windows inside and out, clean all exhaust fans, wipe down the skirting boards, and don't forget the oven. While a tough job, having a clean oven can mean the difference between the full bond, and shelling out a hundred dollars for a professional oven clean.

If all else fails, consider the professionals

If you think you can't clean your accommodation to a professional standard, get a professional cleaner in. Getting a quote for one yourself will save you quite a bit of your bond, as cleaners used by real estate agents will generally charge more money. Make sure you get a receipt from the cleaners too, so you can prove that you had the cleaning done.

Moving out doesn't have to be stressful. Give these eleven tips a shot, and you should be able to get your full bond amount back.

5.1. DIY Vs. Professional End Of Lease Cleaning: Pros And Cons



End of lease cleaning is an important component for tenants to consider when moving out of a rental property. This is a type of cleaning performed by tenants to restore the property to the condition it was received in, allowing renters to reclaim their bond.

In cities like Melbourne, where rental agreements often have very strict cleanliness standards, approaching the task the right way is essential. And for many, the main dilemma lies between choosing whether to do a DIY clean or hire professionals for it.

In this article, we shall take a look at some of the pros and cons of both choices. This way, you'll be able to make a more informed decision, in terms of which method to opt for your particular situation. Whether you choose to do it on your own or hire professional end of lease cleaners Melbourne, this analysis will help you in saving time, resources and efforts exerted in making the right choice.

1. DIY End of Lease Cleaning: Pros

Many tenants often choose to go DIY for their end of lease cleaning. One of the most major benefits is the substantial cost reduction. Professional services can be expensive, especially for large properties. Cleaning yourself can save you a lot of money because you simply pay for the goods and tools you need.

When you're cleaning on your own, you have the freedom to be flexible with the schedule. There is no need to wait for an appointment or work around the availability of a professional cleaner. You can start whenever and wherever you want. DIY cleaning can give you more control, in terms of which areas of the property to prioritize and how thoroughly each of those sections needs to be cleaned. If you have the time and patience for attention to detail, you'll be able to achieve a result that satisfies your landlord's expectations.

2. DIY End of Lease Cleaning: Cons

While DIY cleaning has many advantages, there are some drawbacks to consider. Cleaning the entire property to meet end of lease standards is a large operation that requires much effort and time. This may be challenging for many, as tenants will have to juggle with both packing and planning the move; add to this the pressure for cleaning the property and you get a concoction that is hard to swallow.

Professionals like cheap end of lease cleaners Melbourne make use of equipment and techniques that are specialised to deal with the cleaning tasks involved with cleaning, which regular tenants lack. Without these tools and knowledge, achieving that same level of cleanliness is difficult. If the cleaning doesn't meet the expectations of the landlord, you may face deductions in the bond deposit. With a DIY clean, the risks for this increases as tenants are often unaware of the standards that need to be achieved for an inspection.

3. Professional End of Lease Cleaning: Pros

Enlisting the services of professional end of lease cleaners for your property will provide you with various advantages. Professional cleaners have years of knowledge and are equipped with equipment and methods that enable them to produce unrivalled cleaning results. They know exactly how to address the "often overlooked" areas and ensure the property meets even the strictest standards. It saves you the time and energy that would have been required for cleaning. This enables you to focus on other parts of your move. If you're already overwhelmed with the likes of packing, logistics organising or even moving to a new city, this can help quite a bit.

Many professional companies also offer a bond-back guarantee, meaning that if any issues were found during the final inspection of the property, the cleaners will come back and re-clean the problematic areas for you free-of-cost. It would increase your chances of a full

bond refund. Not to mention end of lease cleaning in Melbourne is stressful, especially with limited time. Professional assistance would definitely take some load off, giving you room for some peace.

4. Professional End of Lease Cleaning: Cons



One of the biggest drawbacks of professional cleaning is the cost incurred. Depending on the size of the property and the type of services required, the costs can quickly add up. And for those on a tight budget this may not be feasible. Another drawback is that you're dependent on the availability of the cleaners. In bustling cities like Melbourne, cleaning services can get fully booked pretty quickly, especially during peak seasons. This would require you to plan and book their services well in advance.

You have limited control when you're hiring professional cleaners. They may be thorough, but some tenants might feel uneasy about not being able to oversee the cleaning process. There is also the possibility that certain areas that you deem to be important may not be given the level of attention you expected.

5. Factors to Consider When Deciding

Assess your situation before deciding between DIY and professional cleaners. If you have a small house, a limited budget, and the skills/time to commit to cleaning, DIY cleaning is your best option. On the other hand, if your priority is reduced stress and a definite return of the bond, you might just find a saviour in professional cleaning services.

Besides this, think about your property. If it needs to be deep cleaned or has sections that have seen a lot of wear and tear, you can expect professionals to produce better results. The other important issue to consider is time. If your relocation date is quickly approaching, experts can help you save more time.

Conclusion

Relocating at the end of a lease doesn't have to drain your finances. By planning ahead, decluttering, comparing quotes, and making smart choices with packing and services, tenants can significantly cut relocation costs. Taking advantage of cost-saving strategies such as DIY packing, off-peak moving, and bundling services like end-of-lease cleaning can also ease the financial burden. Ultimately, being organized, resourceful, and proactive is key to managing a budget-friendly move. With the tips outlined in this guide, you can leave your rental property with peace of mind, knowing you've saved money while ensuring a smooth and efficient relocation.

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