

11

Vital Tips for a Smooth Transition to a Smaller Home

How to cope with sorting, packing, moving, and unpacking your goods and still have enough energy to enjoy your new home!



Do you know why you need a 3-bedroom apartment, double garage and locked storage cage for all your treasures?

... Because you didn't know what to do with them, and it was easier to bring them along than sort them out.

Downsizing Is Not For Cowards

In fact, the #1 reason people stay in their family home longer than they really want to is because they are overwhelmed by the task of sorting through all their possessions and deciding what to take with them, and where to dispose of the rest.

You know you have too much stuff and can't take it all with you, but most of it has memories and emotional overtones. What's more, you're not sure whether you'll like being in an apartment, and the whole process seems very complicated.

So you put it off. You keep on living in a house that is too large for comfort and that requires more work than you can manage.



Until the day comes when you decide you MUST move.

You start to make a list of all there is to do (even once you've found a suitable apartment to move to):

- Sort through furniture, possessions, clothes, crockery, memorabilia, books...
- Decide what to sell, donate, throw away;
- Determine if you'll have space for everything you want to keep;
- Discover what your family members want to take;
- Find out where to sell, donate, or dispose of your goods;
- Arrange for people to collect your unwanted stuff;
- Find people who can help you pack, move and sort;
- Find answers to your questions about insurance, packing materials,...

And then, when your list is already several pages long, you wonder what you still don't know, and where you will find the time and energy to get it all done.

More importantly, will you have any energy left when you arrive in your new home to make friends and simply enjoy life? Believe me, we know how exhausting it can be. But it doesn't have to be that way...

// From the initial phone call, to the arrival of the team involved in packing and sorting, and even to organising the cleaning of the house after we moved out, it was all 'smooth sailing'.

Dianne R North Balwyn

Classic Moves: making your transition easier

We specialise in making your move as smooth, seamless, and stress-free as possible. We understand that your possessions are not just 'things' - they hold precious memories and are part of who you are. So we help you make decisions that you won't regret and ensure that your new home truly feels like home from the moment you move in.

One of the biggest fears our clients have is that they will feel cramped in an apartment after their large home and will bitterly regret the move. In our experience, that rarely happens if you choose the items you take with you carefully and don't try to squeeze too much in.

Not only are we specialists in relocation, but our sister company, [Abbeys Auctions](#), enables us to offer our clients guidance and help in how to sell any items they no longer need at public auction. Together, we provide a one-stop shop when it comes to removing of all items from your home – whether they be delivered to your new home, sent for auction, donated or disposed of. We offer the lot when it comes to relocations and preparing a home for sale. We can even organise gardeners and painters!

Experience, planning and organisation makes a difference our clients feel from the moment they first talk to us. They have confidence that everything is under control, that nothing will be overlooked or forgotten.

Whether you are moving, or simply trying to de-clutter so that your home will be safer and easier to manage, Classic Moves can help you accomplish your goal. Sometimes you need an outside expert to help make decisions easier and give you peace of mind.



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1

Sorting will take more time and energy than you ever imagined

The best time to start sorting through your possessions is now because the biggest cause of stress is always the sense of too much to do in too little time. When you think of all the cupboards and storage areas you rarely look at you'll understand what an enormous job this can be.

Even before you know where you are moving you can set aside a place in your garage for things you no longer want or need, throw out things that have no further life in the, and make lists of things you don't like, or don't want to take with you. Consider using three different "piles" of sell, donate and throw. This will save you a lot of time and stress when the move is imminent. Ask a supportive friend, or family member to assist with this, or ask Abbeys Auctions to visit your home and provide guidance on what could be sold at public auction.

2

Trying to squeeze too much in will make your new apartment feel small

It's hard to feel comfortable when your home is too cluttered especially when you are moving from a large house to a smaller one. Trying to cram too much in makes it hard to settle down. It's better to be very clear on how your furniture, china, clothing and other items are going to fit before you move because then you can let all the unwanted pieces go to the family, auction or charity at one time.

Deliberately choosing to take only what will fit comfortably in the cupboards and storage areas that suits your new home will help you settle in faster.

For a 2-bedroom apartment 50 boxes is about the right amount.

3

Measure beforehand to find out if your furniture will fit

All those lovely floor length windows and french doors onto the balcony that add light and atmosphere to your home mean that you can't just rely on the floor plan to work out how much furniture you can fit into your new home. The best way to discover if everything will fit is to measure each piece of furniture carefully, or make newspaper cut-outs and lay them out on the floor to check whether they are blocking windows or obstructing your movement.

Sometimes you may need to sell what you currently have and buy pieces that really work. Your current home and your new apartment will be laid out quite differently and you may be happier with new furniture that will suit your new home more.

4

Create a 'moving timeline' of what needs to be done when

You thought that deciding where to move was a challenge! Now you have more decisions to make and details to attend to before the moving day: - removalists, packers, transit insurance, settlement dates, cleaning, disposing of rubbish, disposing of old pesticides, paint tins and other noxious chemicals, donating goods, selling goods... and that is just the start of the list.

You need to plan carefully so that everything happens in a timely fashion. This includes deciding what you will take care of yourself, what your family will help with, and what you need to engage professionals to do for you. The sooner you think this through and create a 'Moving Timeline' including dates, the less stress you will experience and the more likely it is that your move will go smoothly.

5

Choose your special treasures but don't take too many

When you have spent many years in one home, or steadily moved from a big home to one that is even larger the hardest part about downsizing is letting the tangible tokens of your memories go. The reality is if your new home is cluttered with all those things it makes it harder to adjust, not easier.

Some things can be photographed, and you can even create a photo book that is portable and will trigger all your special memories, or a photo collage. It won't be exactly the same, but it will serve the same purpose and in the end it will make you happier and safer than extra possessions will.

Many people keep too much and end up several years later with boxes in storage areas they have never opened.

6

What do I do with the things I'm not taking?

DON'T waste time on garage sales - they are labour intensive and you get very little return. Selling items on the Internet may work for you, but you will either have to package items up to post, or stay home when buyers come to pick them up. Do you really want total strangers visiting your home and looking around while they collect their purchases?

A solution is to have an Abbeyes Auctions valuer visit your home and provide an appraisal of the goods you will not need in your new home.

Abbeys can then pick up all these items and deliver them to the auction house to be sold via public auction, and donate &/or dispose of the rest.

7

Don't collect random boxes to pack things in

If you use boxes that are too small, too large, or not sturdy enough you will end up with extra charges from the removalists and more breakages. Placing heavy items like books and china in large boxes means that no one will be able to lift them.

Small and odd sized boxes don't stack well in the van and actually increase packing and unpacking time.

More importantly, goods packed in boxes that are overpacked or not packed correctly are more likely to break because the boxes could tip over in transit.

Rent or purchase moving boxes or ask your removalist if they supply boxes.

8

At last, a practical use for old newspapers... or NOT!

Newsprint will come off on the items wrapped and you will need to wash all goods thoroughly at the other end. So using newspaper is not an efficient use of your time or money!

Plain white paper is best for most wrapping because it protects your goods and keeps them clean. Bubble wrap is very expensive and not good for our environment and should only be used for extremely fragile and valuable items.

Using professional packing techniques will decrease the cost spent on unnecessary expensive packing materials and save you time and money by keeping your valuables safe!

9

Make sure you put your 'must have' box out of the way

At least a week before your move make a list of the things you need every day (like glasses, medications, car keys, electronic devices and chargers) and your valuables (jewellery, chequebooks, financial information, passports etc.).

The day before you move, put these items into a plastic storage container and keep it with you at all times so it doesn't inadvertently get packed into the moving van.

You won't believe how often people are left without their keys and other essentials!

If you are driving yourself, put that container in the car before the removalists arrive and keep the car key with you all day. Move day is often fast and furious so for peace of mind always keep your valuables separate.

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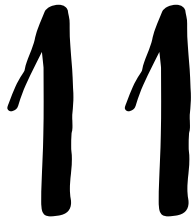
Packing & inventory lists are essential

It's easy to forget what you sold or donated & waste hours searching for it.

It's even easier to lose track of just which box some item went into. A separate inventory of the items in each box, and which room they came out of is a valuable record of what you have (in case of an accident during the move), and exactly where to find something if you need it urgently or just want to know where to find it later.

Pack each room separately as it is much easier to unpack things quickly at the other end. You may end up with a few half-empty boxes but it will be much easier if each box is clearly labelled with the room you want it placed in at your destination and contains only things that will be placed in that room.

Fill half empty boxes with linen and towels to ensure that the half empty boxes do not get squashed when stacked in a carrier.



I just want to have a shower, a cup of tea and go to bed, but I have to unpack the linen first!

Moving day can be very stressful and both physically and emotionally exhausting! If you're like many people you probably won't sleep very well the night before, thinking about all there is to be done next day. By the time you arrive in your new apartment and the removalists leave (especially if you've handled the packing and organising yourself) you may not feel like unpacking.

Consider packing clean bedlinen and towels into your overnight bag so they are easily located. Also pack cups, kettle, tea, coffee and sugar into a box and mark it "Survival Pack" You (or a willing helper) can quickly make up your bed as soon as it is placed in your bedroom while you sit and enjoy a cuppa! That way, as soon as the carriers leave and after you have had a cup of tea, you have the option of enjoying a shower and going to straight to bed without unpacking another thing.



Classic Moves offers end-to-end relocation services so that you stay in control

Our mature, compassionate staff find out what you want, then do the work while you sit back and relax. At the end of the move you'll be settled in your new home, bed made, sipping your favourite drink with energy to spare.

What we can take care of for you:

-
- ✓ Planning & project management

 - ✓ Preparation of your home for sale

 - ✓ Sorting & decluttering

 - ✓ Managing contents you no longer require, including sale by public auction, coordination of charity &/or responsible disposal

 - ✓ Storage

 - ✓ Professional packing, with special care for valuable and fragile items

 - ✓ Transport & furniture removal

 - ✓ Unpacking & setting up your new home

 - ✓ Moving day supervision / management

 - ✓ 7 day phone support service

Moving is one of the most stressful experiences in your life. When you are downsizing it is even more challenging. We help take the emotion out of your decisions so that you end up surrounded by things you love, and space to appreciate them.

The #1 comment people make when they relocate using Classic Moves is:

Classic Moves lived up to their promise of an uncomplicated, stress free move whilst meeting our needs and keeping us informed.

Here's what some of our clients say:

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I would just like to let you know how impressed I was with the whole move process and express my appreciation to the whole Classic Moves team.

I was dreading the two move days, but the Classic Moves team made it so easy. Throughout our journey together, I have been kept informed and up-to-date on what Classic Moves had been organising in terms of my relocation.

Virginia S. Glen Waverley

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The Classic Moves office staff kept us informed in the lead up to our move and planned our relocation with precision timing.

We were ever so grateful for their cheerful and gracious help, expert relocation management and attention to detail.

Joy and Family, Ashburton

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Thank you for safely delivering our clients furniture over the last few weeks to their new residence.

We have received very positive feedback from our purchasers, in particular they have commented on how professional and accommodating the staff were during their moves. As you are well aware, it is a very stressful time and your services and team of packers and un-packers did a great job to make these moves as smooth as possible.

Nothing was ever too much trouble, and we worked together as a team and should be proud of our efforts.

Village Manager, Brighton

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Thanks again for your amazing and caring service, Mum was so happy and relaxed and the move could not have been easier for her because of you and your incredible team!

Mary

We make it easy for you to move!

Call Classic Moves today on **1300 738 035**

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