

The big move: It doesn't have to be a nightmare

IF YOU'RE moving, or even thinking about moving, you might be given to breaking out in a cold sweat. Stop right there.

Instead of being a stressful time, moving can be a great way to lighten your load and get a fresh start, writes **Sarah Cottman**, professional organiser at Heavenly Order.

De-clutter

BEING organised is crucial to a smooth move. Sell, donate or throw away anything that you don't want, need, use or like. Not only will this give you clarity, it will cut down on moving costs.

Plan

WALK through your current home and imagine your stuff in your new home. Make a sketch of the new home and either name or number the rooms.

If you have the opportunity, go into the new home before your belongings are delivered and put up A4 sheets with the names/numbers

of the rooms. This will help the movers and you to keep the situation under control.

Pack

START packing each room with the less used items first. Clearly mark the boxes with the new room names or numbers. You could also write a list of the contents of the box on a sheet of paper that will be packed on top so that you can check it if necessary without any frantic rummaging.

Prioritise

Leave out just the basics in each room until just before the move, then create a priority box with the items you will need during the first couple of days.

Essentials that you will need the moment you step over the threshold of the new home are toilet paper, kettle, coffee and/or tea, disposable plates and utensils, bottled water and a mug for each person. You will also need toothbrushes, toothpaste, a towel, bedding, a torch (check the



batteries) and strong baby wipes. Include your valuable documents and jewellery as you will not want this box to leave your side.

Services

Create a checklist of paperwork you'll need to sort out, such as utilities (to be disconnected/connected) mail redirection, banks,

superannuation, driver's licence, insurers, etc. If you are moving yourself you will need to book a truck well ahead of time. If you are using removalists, notify them as early as possible.

Getting help

IF it's all too much for you, book a professional organiser. They can

organise every task for you including the de-cluttering at the start and helping you make decisions.

The Australasian Association of Professional Organisers website, www.aapo.org.au can direct you to services in your area.

Make sure you get a quote for the job so you know exactly what you're getting.

● More: www.horder.com.au

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