

How to select a removalist

Presented by Moving Made Easy, 8 May 2025

Note: You are welcome to appoint whomever you deem appropriate for your move. Any advice or firms listed in this document are suggestions only.

Choosing the right removalist

Selection

- Choose reputable removalists based on referrals, history of service quality and reliability.
- Compare quotes – get 2-3 quotes and investigate any major pricing discrepancies.
- Ask questions – be curious and push for transparency.
- Outsource tasks wisely – avoid overloading friends and family with moving responsibilities.
- Peak moving season is October to January – book early to secure the best removalists. If you don't have an exact settlement date yet, ask to pencil in approx. dates and consider paying a deposit to lock time in that timeframe.
- Have a think about how much or how little you would like the removalist to do before you meet with them, you can change your mind, but it helps to have some clarity before the meeting. A good removalist can tailor their services to your needs, whether you want full support from packing and unpacking to making the bed, or simply need help moving boxes. The level of service is entirely up to you.
- Ask what optional extras are possible, ie things you may not have thought of such as cleaning services, packing materials, storage, etc.
- Ask to include the removal of your boxes and rubbish into the quote

Fixed price vs hourly rate

- Avoid hourly rates where possible to prevent unexpected costs (e.g. weather delays or circumstances out of your control).
- Ask for a fixed price quote for better cost certainty.

Insurance

- Ensure the removalist has public liability and comprehensive accidental damage cover to protect your belongings and both properties (your current home and new residence).
- List high-value or unique items under the comprehensive cover.

Check contract details

- Clarify all inclusions and exclusions before signing anything. It's helpful to have someone knowledgeable review the terms and conditions.
- Understand what the contract says about delays and extra charges - make sure you're comfortable with those clauses. You could ask directly them about any

potential additional charges and request that they be clearly itemised in the quote or contract.

- Ask questions – anything you're unsure about, get clarity and compare answers between removalists.
- When getting quotes – meet at your current home (they need to inspect access) and go through every room in detail. Be cautious if they insist on quoting over the phone.

Removalists

- Allied, Annette Sheehan, 03 9904 0104
- Classic Moves, 1300 738 035, classicmoves.com.au
- Master Relocations, Alex Vasquez, 0432 030 144, alex@masterrelocations.com.au
- Claymore Thistle, Jane Perry, 0419 872 570, jane.perry@claymorethistle.com
- Kent Removals & Storage Melbourne, 13 55 31, kentremovalsstorage.com.au

Moving boxes

- Good removalists should supply prior to move and collect boxes after the move.
- Better quality boxes can be sourced from your removalist, National Storage, or Storage King.
- Lower quality boxes are available at Bunnings or Officeworks.
- Use specific boxes for items like clothes, books, or wine.
- If packing yourself, always fill boxes to the top so they can be safely stacked.
- For more packing advice, contact Kym McAuliffe Phillips, 0417 229 224, Kym@movingmadeeasy.net.au

Decluttering – 80/20 Rule

- We typically use 20% of what we own 80% of the time.
- Consider what you truly want or need to take.
- Take only essentials, donate or auction the rest.
- There are companies who will collect items you might not want and sell it at auction for you:
 - Abbeys Auctions, 1300 738 035, abbeysauctions.com.au
 - Connie Lyon 0407 560 843 Licenced Second Hand Dealer and Valuer.

Practical moving considerations

- Label boxes clearly and prioritise essentials. Coloured or pre-labelled tape (e.g. "fragile", "priority") can be bought from Bunnings, Officeworks, National Storage, or Storage King.
- Consider what you and the removalists can physically lift. Think about stairs, narrow access points, etc.
- Use your St. Clare floorplan to pre-plan where furniture will go. It saves time and

money.

- Notify the removalist about any valuable or delicate items.
- Pack small or fragile items separately, mark them clearly, or take them yourself.
- Use specialist pads for large artworks.
- Professional wrapping is strongly recommended for delicate pieces.
- Refer to St. Clare's "Move in Check List"

Storage options before move-in

Option 1: Removalist storage

- Items won't be accessible until delivery.

Option 2: Self-storage (e.g. National Storage)

- You will have access to your belongings.

Whichever you choose:

- Make a detailed inventory and get it signed off with storage company.
- Confirm what insurance is in place (e.g. theft, fire).

About Moving Made Easy

- Kym McAuliffe Phillips
- 0417 229 224
- Kym@movingmadeeeasy.net.au
- Independent relocation advisor with 55 years' experience.
- Offers comprehensive support to ensure due diligence in an unregulated industry.
- All St. Clare residents receive a free 15-minute phone consultation.

Resource centre

You can also find information and materials from our previous sessions on the resident resource centre on the St. Clare website.

- <https://stclarekew.com.au/resource-centre/>
- Login: members

Disclaimer

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