



STEP
5

 First home
buyer toolkit

When it's time to move in



PEET



And just like that, it's time to move into your first home.

At Peet, we couldn't be more excited for you – here's a few final words of advice to help you on your way.

Moving into your first home is one of life's big milestones.

It's a day that you've worked so hard for. All the saving and budgeting, the meetings with experts, setbacks and small victories, the weekends spent researching communities and the hours and hours spent walking through display homes.

Finally, it's all about to pay off.



The logistics – how to make your move seamless and stress-free

Planning for the move

- ✔ Do an audit of your furniture and the number of boxes you'll need, then make sure you have a suitably sized truck or van organised for the big day.
- ✔ Enlisting the help of friends and family is also important – you may be surprised how much work is involved in moving into your new home.
- ✔ If you have pets or younger children, it can be a good idea to have them looked after elsewhere for the day. You'll be busy enough, and pets can get easily stressed when there is too much going on.
- ✔ If you are renting, give notice to your landlord or property manager and make sure you understand your obligations when you vacate the property. If you need to have the carpet professionally cleaned, you'll need to book this in for later on moving day. Check out our blog detailing everything you need to know about ending a tenancy <https://www.peet.com.au/blog/closing-the-door-on-renting-7-things-youll-need-to-do>
- ✔ You'll also need to inform the various authorities and fill out change of address forms – remember; schools, doctor, bank, lawyer, clubs, any ongoing orders (groceries, newspaper).
- ✔ It's important to have all of your utilities set-up at your new home too; phone, internet, electricity, water and gas.



Packing

Moving home is the perfect opportunity to de-clutter. Don't pack anything into a box destined for your new home that you don't absolutely love, or you haven't used in the last six months to one year. You could consider selling anything valuable on eBay or Gumtree or perhaps donating it to a second hand store.

Ensure you clearly label your boxes with a large waterproof marker. Each box should have the name of the room it needs to go in, and be ranked in the order of importance it needs to be unpacked. If your new home is double storey, be sure to label the level on the box too.

In the lead up, try to use perishable items such as food and items in the freezer, and don't re-stock. Do an online grocery shop and arrange for the basics to be delivered to you on the day you move in.

It's a good idea to pack yourself a little moving caddie that includes packing tape, scissors, hammer, a sharpie, labels and a Stanley knife. A bottle of water, some toilet paper, soap, cash and any medication you'll need during the day can also be included.

Top tips!



De-clutter



Label & rank boxes



Do an online grocery
order



Pack a moving caddie

Moving day

Congratulations - the big day is here!

Remember the keys to your new home - it might sound obvious, but in amongst the excitement, these things can be overlooked. Download our handy [moving day checklist](#) so you don't forget a thing!

It can be a good idea to have a friend or family member organise water and snacks for the day.

With so much to do, eating can drop down the priority list, but keeping yourself (and your helpers) fed and well-hydrated will help to keep the momentum up – getting you moved in, and unpacked faster.

When you arrive into your new home – have a quick look around and make sure everything is as you'd expect it to be. Run a quick vacuum over the floors if it needs it. And check that your utilities are working - you don't want to be sitting in the dark on your first night!

Unpacking tips

- 1 Tell your helpers about your labelled box system. Ensure they're putting the right boxes in the right rooms.
- 2 Unpack the kitchen and bedrooms first. Make the beds that will be slept in that night.
- 3 Unpack boxes labelled '1' first. This will get the essential items out of the boxes and available should you need them.
- 4 Delegate appliances and IT to a knowledgeable helper. Ensuring appliances are plugged in, set-up with the correct time and ready for use can be really helpful. Getting televisions working and getting broadband and WIFI up and running can also be delegated to an IT savvy friend.
- 5 We recommend unpacking and organising the kitchen yourself (there will be plenty of other tasks to delegate to your helpers). The set-up of a kitchen can be very personal – have a think about what you want where and what's going to flow the best when you're cooking. Think about keeping platters next to your plates and food items away from detergents and home cleaners.
- 6 Unpack right the first time. Putting a little extra time and thought into where you're putting things away is really important. Throwing things into a spare cupboard just to get them out of boxes is not a good strategy. It's unlikely you'll ever come back and re-organise it once it's packed away.

When you leave with your last load, remember to do a final check of the property; have you got everything? Is the house clean? Is everything locked up?

We're in! How to make your new house a home

And breathe. You did it. You're all unpacked (mostly!). Now it's time to turn your house into your home.

It is always a good idea to live in your home for a while before making any significant changes such as painting, lighting or landscaping.

Give yourself a chance to see how the light works in your house, which rooms see the most sunlight? Which areas do you spend the most time? Where gets the most foot traffic? What you think you'd like to transform when you first move-in, can change dramatically once you've lived there for a few months.

It is ok to take your time with putting the finishing touches to your home. It can be fun to have new projects to look forward to in your new home and save up for them.

Here's some cost-effective and less-permanent ideas to add the finishing touches to your new place.

Window furnishings

If your new home didn't come with blinds or curtains, you'll want to organise those quickly.

While made-to-measure blinds and curtains are a better quality, longer lasting option, if your budget is really tight, there are plenty of ready-made blinds and curtains available in most department stores and large hardware/DIY stores. Have a list of your exact window measurements ready so you get the right sizes.

Soft furnishings

A great way to make your home feel cosy is with soft furnishings such as rugs, cushions and throws. This is an ideal way to inject colour and personality into your home and really showcase your style. Plus, it's easy to change your mind or update as new trends come along. Follow your favourite brands on Instagram for inspiration!



Artwork and photos

Adding your favourite family photo or a treasured piece of artwork will immediately make a house feel like it's your home. And now that you own the house, you can decorate permanently! If you're worried about your brand-new paintwork, you can use adhesive strips that can be removed without leaving any marks.

If you don't own any artwork, you certainly don't need to spend thousands on an original when there are framed prints available for much, much less. Or get creative - look for prints online and put them in an inexpensive frame!

Landscaping

Creating a stunning garden is another way to personalise your house. As with other changes you may want to make, it's a good idea to see where you catch the sunlight before you go ahead and plant your garden.

As an instant, cost effective option try placing a couple of feature pot plants by your doorway or around your outside patio area. You can move them around to see where they grow best before you take the plunge and plant them permanently.

Connecting with your new community

Community creates a sense of belonging and connectivity. Reaching out and meeting people is one of the most effective ways of settling you and your family into a new area.

Here's some ideas to help get you started:

Neighbours

Pop over and introduce yourself to your neighbours either side of your house or apartment, and even across the road. Invite them over for a cup of coffee or a wine. If you've built a brand-new house, chances are they're itching to pop over and see the finished product inside!

Facebook groups

Today most communities have Facebook groups set up for people within the community to communicate easily. These pages can be a valuable source of information about community activities, events and even where to find the best coffee!

Parents groups and schools

Children are a great way of getting involved in a community and meeting lots of people. Check out the local play groups or volunteer to help at your child's school.

Having playdates at your home is a great way to help your children form new friendships.

House warming gathering

Why not host a little get-together for the people you've met since you've moved in. It needn't be expensive – people are generally more than happy to bring a plate to share and something to drink. It's a great way to celebrate your arrival in the neighbourhood and to meet even more people.



You did it!

You've completed your first home buying journey, congratulations! Buying your first home is a huge achievement, and one you can be proud of. Now you can relax and start creating memories in your new home.

At Peet, we love seeing our customers realise their property dreams. We hope that our Toolkit has helped to make your first home buying journey that little bit easier.



Peet is an award-winning national property development group that focuses on delivering high-quality, master planned communities, medium-density developments and apartments. With over 125 years' experience, Peet is one of Australia's largest and most respected developers.