



International Removals

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Preparing for your move

Once you have decided to make the move, and are ready to start gathering quotations from removals companies, it is a good idea to start sorting out your essentials. Attics, cellars, garages, sheds and those spare rooms can all be cleared in preparation for your move.

It may sound arduous, but now is probably the best time to have that clear out that you've no doubt been putting off!

Arrange a garage sale, or give things to charity that you no longer need, or won't be taking with you to Australia. You should do some research into which items may be prohibited to import to Australia.

You can find out more information about items prohibited to import to Australia on the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) web site at www.daff.gov.au/aqis

When should I contact overseas removal companies?

It is never too early to make a start on planning your removal. You need to make sure you allow yourself sufficient time to book a survey date and time that suits you best, obtain competitive quotations, and finalise your shipping and/or storage requirements. The home survey should be free of charge and without obligation.

If you are only sending a box or a suitcase overseas, it may be worth getting a quote from a parcel service such as UPS or TNT.

International removal companies or international shipping companies will also offer a service for small quantities but might not be as competitive at these volumes.

What should the removal quotation include?

The quotation should be for a door to door service including full export packing service, labour, freight and delivery costs to your new home in Australia.

Needless to say, no two moves are alike and quotations will be tailored to your specific requirements. The quotation will exclude Quarantine costs (which the moving company should be able to gauge), storage at origin or destination, import duties & taxes.

Time

Consignments travelling to the Australia can take upto 3 months to reach their destination by ship depending on your location. Shipments are sent in sea freight metal containers which range from about 800 cubic feet to a 40ft 'high cube' container (about 2400 cubic feet volume). Container share removals will be loaded at a central depot before going to the port, which all adds to the shipping time.

Shipment from the UK to Australia in a shared container can take upto 10 weeks shipping. It is always quicker to take a full container load - this will shave 2-3 weeks off the total shipping time.

Insurance

Your international removal company will probably offer you some form of transit insurance - check with your home insurance company to see if your property will still be insured whilst in transit as they will be much cheaper!

It is very advisable to make sure items that are breakable or can be damaged (eg. furniture that might be scratched) is insured as damage does sometimes occur.

Sometimes the odd box may also go missing, and also mould or mildew damage can occur on items travelling some distance as they are sealed in the metal freight container with any moisture from, eg. a washing machine that has not dried out properly, before travelling through temperature zones for up to three months. Mould and mildew insurance is usually available.

Other charges

You may find you have to pay an extra fee on top of your removals company fee for Australian Quarantine Inspections (AQIS) if your shipment is inspected.

Clearing your consignment

Make sure your shipping company advise you in advance of all the documents they need for clearing your unaccompanied effects through customs, or they may hold your shipment up while they wait for you to complete them. When shipping to Australia you will need a copy of your passport and visa, a completed AQIS form and inventory.

How do you calculate the removal costs?

Sea freight charges are calculated on the overall volume of goods for packing and shipment. Volume is generally expressed in cubic feet.

Bear in mind that airfreight, while fast, is expensive and priced on weight whereas anything sent by ship is priced on volume.

Cubic Feet Estimates for everyday items

Item	Cubic Feet (approx)
cardboard box 45cm cubed	5
3 seater settee/double wardrobe	60
living room chair	20
wardrobe 3' wide	30
chest of drawers	15
dining table (medium)	50
dining chair	10
bookcase (medium)	25
TV	30
video/DVD player	5
stereo	10
double bed	60
cooker/fridge/washing machine	30
computer	15
saloon car eg. Ford Mondeo	600