



MOVING FAMILIES STRESS-FREE FOR OVER 40 YEARS

MOVING BETWEEN STATES

Interstate Removals Guide

How your interstate move is planned, packed, transported and delivered
— and how to prepare for a smooth move between states.

Tap any item in the contents to jump straight to that section.

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What's Inside

This guide explains how an interstate move works from booking to delivery, what affects timing and cost, and how to prepare so your move between states goes smoothly.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This is an interactive PDF. Click or tap any section below to jump straight there — no scrolling required. Every page has a “Back to contents” link in the top right, and your PDF reader's bookmarks panel lists all 12 sections.

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NOT SURE ABOUT YOUR MOVE?

Contact Transcorp on **1300 466 838** and our team will talk you through your options before you book.

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Moving Interstate With Transcorp

An interstate move is a bigger undertaking than a move across town. Your belongings may travel hundreds or thousands of kilometres, pass through more than one handling stage, and arrive within a delivery window rather than at an exact time.

This guide walks you through how an interstate removal works from booking to delivery, what affects timing and cost, and how to prepare so your move goes smoothly.

If you have a question this guide doesn't answer, our team is always happy to help before you book.

WHAT TO DO NEXT

Work through the 12 sections in the [contents](#), then use the [Final Checklist Before Your Interstate Move](#) on the last page before your pickup date.

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What Is an Interstate Removal?

An interstate removal is the relocation of household or office belongings from one Australian state or territory to another — for example, from Melbourne to Sydney, Brisbane or Adelaide.

It differs from a local move in several important ways:

- Transit usually takes days rather than hours
- Belongings are packed and secured for long-distance travel, not just a short trip
- Items may be loaded, transferred and unloaded more than once along the route
- Delivery is scheduled within a window rather than a fixed appointment time
- Careful documentation and labelling matter more, particularly for shared loads

Because of this added complexity, interstate moves reward good planning, proper packing and clear communication far more than local moves do.

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Dedicated Removals vs Backloading

There are two common ways to move belongings interstate. Understanding the difference helps you choose the right option for your budget and timeframe.

Dedicated Interstate Move

A vehicle is allocated to your belongings only.

- Faster, more predictable transit times
- Greater flexibility around pickup and delivery scheduling
- Less handling, since your goods are not combined with other consignments

Backloading / Shared Load

Your belongings share a vehicle with one or more other customers' consignments, often making use of a truck already travelling your route.

- Can reduce cost compared to a dedicated vehicle
- Best suited to smaller volumes and flexible delivery timing
- Delivery windows are generally wider, as the vehicle may stop for other customers

WHICH ONE SUITS YOUR MOVE?

If you have a firm deadline or are moving fragile or high-value items, a dedicated move is usually the safer choice. If you can be flexible on timing, backloading can be a cost-effective option. Speak with our team about which option suits your move.

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How Your Move Is Handled, Step by Step

Every interstate move follows the same broad stages. Here is what happens at each one.

Step 1 - Planning & Inventory

Before moving day, we work with you to understand:

- The volume of items being moved
- Large, heavy or awkward items that need special handling
- Access at both the pickup and delivery addresses (stairs, lifts, parking)
- Your preferred pickup and delivery windows

An accurate inventory matters. If volume is underestimated, there may not be room on the vehicle, which can cause delays. Let us know as early as possible if your list of items changes before moving day.

Step 2 - Packing & Preparation

Interstate packing needs to withstand a longer journey than a local move, including vibration, multiple handling points and changes in temperature.

- Heavy-duty, stackable cartons
- Furniture blankets and protective padding
- Shrink wrap and strapping to stop shifting in transit
- Disassembly of larger furniture where this improves protection and space

You are welcome to pack yourself, but many customers choose our valet packing service for interstate moves, even if they would normally pack a local move on their own. Inadequate packing is one of the most common causes of damage over long distances.

Step 3 - Loading & Consolidation

Loading an interstate vehicle is a technical process. Our crews focus on:

- Correct weight distribution to prevent load shift
- Protecting items from pressure and crushing
- Securing furniture so it cannot move in transit
- Keeping each customer's belongings clearly identified on shared loads

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How Your Move Is Handled (continued)

Poor stacking or securing may not cause visible damage immediately, but can lead to problems after the vehicle has travelled long distances over varied roads. Clear labelling and documentation help protect your belongings, particularly on backloaded moves.

Step 4 - Interstate Transport

Transit time depends on distance, whether your move is dedicated or shared, and conditions along the route.

- Trucks travel at safe, regulated speeds with mandatory driver rest breaks
- Shared loads may involve stops to load or unload other customers
- Road conditions, weather and traffic can all affect the schedule

Because of these variables, interstate moves are generally quoted with a delivery window rather than an exact time. We will keep you informed if anything changes along the route.

Step 5 - Delivery & Unloading

On arrival, our crew will:

- Coordinate access at your delivery address
- Carefully unload and place furniture in your nominated rooms
- Reassemble key furniture where this was arranged in advance
- Give you the opportunity to check items as they come off the vehicle

We encourage you to inspect your belongings during unloading so anything unexpected can be raised and dealt with straight away.

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How Long Does an Interstate Move Take?

Timing depends on distance, route and the type of service you choose.

- Shorter interstate routes can be completed in a few days
- Longer routes, or shared loads with multiple stops, generally take longer
- Regional and remote destinations typically require extra planning time

It helps to think of your move in two parts: the pickup date, when your belongings are collected, and the delivery window, the period during which they are expected to arrive. Ask our team for an estimated timeframe for your specific route when you book.

SEE TYPICAL ROUTE TIMES

Indicative transit times for our regular routes are listed in [Interstate Transit Times From Melbourne](#).

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Interstate Transit Times From Melbourne

As a guide, typical transit times on our regular interstate routes from Melbourne are set out below. Times are shown in business days and apply in either direction.

Route	Transit time
Melbourne ↔ Sydney	1 to 5 days
Melbourne ↔ Canberra	1 to 5 days
Melbourne ↔ Brisbane	2 to 5 days
Melbourne ↔ Adelaide	1 to 7 days
Melbourne ↔ Perth	5 to 14 days
Melbourne ↔ Tasmania	5 to 16 days
Melbourne ↔ Far North Queensland	7 to 21 days
Melbourne ↔ Darwin	7 to 28 days
Melbourne ↔ Mining Towns WA	21 to 28 days

HOW THESE TIMES ARE CALCULATED

These timeframes are based on our backload rates, meaning your belongings travel alongside other interstate consignments heading the same way — this is what allows us to offer competitive backload pricing. If you book an exclusive truck or 20ft container for your move alone, transit time can often be reduced, as you are not sharing space or schedule with other customers.

November to January is our busiest period, and Easter and Christmas can also see additional delays on the road and rail network. We recommend booking early and building in a buffer for these peak times.

MOVING FROM ANOTHER STATE?

Transit times for moves originating outside Melbourne — including from Sydney, Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth, Canberra, Tasmania, Darwin and Far North Queensland — are available at transcorpremovalsandstorage.com.au/interstate-transit-times or by calling our team on **1300 466 838**.

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How Interstate Pricing Works

Local moves are usually priced on time. Interstate moves are typically priced on the volume of your belongings, most commonly a rate per cubic metre, along with the distance travelled.

Other factors that can affect your quote include:

- Distance between the pickup and delivery addresses
- Access conditions at both ends (stairs, lifts, long carries, parking restrictions)
- Packing and preparation requirements
- Whether you choose a dedicated vehicle or a shared/backload service

BEWARE A QUOTE THAT LOOKS TOO LOW

A very low quote can sometimes reflect an inaccurate volume estimate or fees that only appear on moving day. Ask us to explain anything you are unsure about before you book, including whether charges such as stair fees or waiting time could apply to your move.

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Insurance & Liability Basics

Insurance is an important part of planning an interstate move, and it is often misunderstood.

Before you book, ask us to clarify:

- What is covered during packing and handling
- What is covered during transport
- What is excluded, and under what conditions

Understanding your cover before moving day, rather than after something goes wrong, avoids misunderstandings and gives you peace of mind throughout the move.

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Preparing in the Final 7 Days

The last week before an interstate move matters most. In the days beforehand:

- Finish packing everything that isn't part of a Transcorp packing service
- Confirm your final inventory with us, especially if items have been added or removed
- Confirm access arrangements at both properties
- Set aside essential items and documents to carry with you
- Confirm delivery windows and the best contact number for updates
- Dispose of any restricted or hazardous items (see [section 10](#) for the full list)

Thorough preparation in this final week is the single biggest factor in a smooth interstate move.

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Common Problems and How We Prevent Them

Most interstate moving issues are preventable with the right planning and process.

What Can Go Wrong

- Delays caused by weather, traffic or scheduling
- Damage caused by inadequate packing
- Confusion around delivery timing
- Misplaced or misidentified items on shared loads

How We Reduce the Risk

- Accurate, confirmed inventories before moving day
- Appropriate packing materials and techniques for long-distance transport
- Clear labelling and documentation, especially on shared loads
- Realistic delivery windows and proactive communication

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Items That Cannot Be Transported Interstate

The same restrictions that apply to local moves apply to interstate removals, with a few extra considerations for longer transit times and state border requirements.

- Fuels, gases and fuel-powered equipment that hasn't been drained
- Household chemicals, corrosive products, explosives and ammunition
- Aerosols and pressurised containers, unless specifically approved
- Perishable or refrigerated food
- Pets and other live animals

PLANTS & BIOSECURITY

Plants require extra care on interstate moves. Biosecurity and quarantine rules differ between states and territories, so you are responsible for checking the requirements that apply at your destination before packing any plants.

For the complete list of prohibited and special-care items, along with fridge preparation steps, see the Transcorp House Removal Customer Moving Guide. If you are unsure whether something can be transported, please check with us before moving day.

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Frequently Asked Questions

How far in advance should I book?

We recommend booking as early as you can, particularly if you are moving during a peak period such as summer, the end of the month, or school holidays.

Can I pack my own belongings?

Yes. Professionally packed items are generally less likely to be damaged over a long-distance move, so many customers choose our packing service for interstate relocations even if they would normally pack themselves.

Is backloading safe?

Backloading can work well when it is properly planned and documented, but it isn't the right fit for every move. Talk to us about whether it suits your timeframe and belongings.

Will my delivery date be exact?

Interstate deliveries are generally provided as a window rather than an exact time, to allow for distance, road conditions and scheduling. We will keep you updated if anything changes.

Can my move include storage?

Yes. Short and long-term storage can be arranged if your new property isn't ready, or if you would prefer your belongings held near your destination until you are.

What if my delivery is delayed?

We will let you know as early as possible and provide an updated delivery window. Delays can occasionally occur due to weather, road conditions or mechanical issues beyond anyone's control.

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Final Checklist Before Your Interstate Move

Before your pickup date, please ensure:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| ☐ | Final inventory has been confirmed with Transcorp | see section |
| ☐ | Access at both properties has been confirmed | see section |
| ☐ | Packing is complete, or your packing service is booked | see section |
| ☐ | Restricted and hazardous items have been removed | see section |
| ☐ | Essential items and documents are set aside to carry with you | see section |
| ☐ | Delivery window and contact details have been confirmed | see section |
| ☐ | Plants have been checked against destination biosecurity rules | see section |
| ☐ | Pets have alternative transport arranged | see section |
| ☐ | A contact number has been provided for updates during transit | see section |

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We're Here to Help

Interstate moves involve more planning than a move across town, but with the right preparation and an experienced team behind you, the process is straightforward.

If you are unsure about any part of your move, please contact Transcorp before booking or before moving day — we are always happy to talk it through.

READY TO BOOK YOUR INTERSTATE MOVE?

Our team can talk you through routes, timing and pricing for your move.

1300 466 838

enquiries@transcorpaustralia.com.au



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www.transcorpremovalsandstorage.com.au