



NEWS - January 2012

Renting Sustainably

Cutting down on energy and water consumption is a hot topic, partly because of our environmental awareness & partly because we all want to cut our living costs down. Whilst it is much easier to equip your home with energy efficient fixtures if you're a homeowner, it's not always that simple for tenants. Here are a few ideas for helping tenants live more sustainably in the home they're renting.

1. Educate yourself - The first step to becoming a sustainable renter is educating yourself about what it actually means to be sustainable. Find out what behaviours support a sustainable environment & what habits you need to change in your lifestyle. A great place to find information is www.naturalstrategies.com.au.

2. Use less utilities - Just because you may not be able to change the fittings & fixtures in your home such as the shower head or hot water system, doesn't mean you can't still cut down on your water and energy usage by being more vigilant. Start with turning lights off when you leave a room; fill the sink half way when washing vegetables instead of rinsing under a running tap; run white goods on economical cycles; dry your clothes on the line instead of the dryer; & turn electrical items off

at the wall instead of having them on standby.

3. Think about what you can do differently - Once you have educated yourself about what it means to be sustainable, take a look at your own habits & think about the things you can do differently both in the home you're renting & outside of it. For instance you might be able to buy greener products or plant a potted herb garden instead of purchasing from the supermarket.

4. Chat to your property manager - Your landlord may be willing to make certain changes to the property to help make it more sustainable & cut down on their own maintenance costs. With the landlord's permission you may be able to make minor changes yourself like installing tap aerators, but you always need to ask.



From everyone at Professionals we would like to wish you a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Support the Salvo's Christmas Appeal

Once again, the Salvation Army is calling for support for their annual Christmas Appeal from which they expect to provide more than \$10 million worth of goods & gifts to more than 350,000 people in need across Australia. This will include the distribution of over 100,000 food vouchers & hampers & nearly half a million toys!

Professionals are one such organisation that has helped to contribute to this year's appeal, & we're calling on all members of the community who are able to give a donation of cash or gifts to generously contribute as well. There are hundreds of families in need in every community, & it would be great to be able to make their Christmas a happy one by giving a helping hand through the Salvation Army's Christmas Appeal.

If you would like to make a donation to The Salvation Army Christmas Appeal, please visit truemeaningofchristmas.org.au. We promise that it will be a decision you won't regret making because you'll be putting a smile on someone's face this Christmas that will truly appreciate the meaning of giving. Visit www.salvos.org.au for information on helping the Salvation Army throughout the year.



Moving At Christmas Time

When you think about moving house at this time of year, you probably immediately think that Christmas is a bad time to move... what with businesses being on holidays & having to do your own Christmas preparations. But in fact, moving at Christmas time can be beneficial for people whether they're buying or renting.

Generally speaking, most people think the same thing, which means that the property market might not be as busy as it will be in the early part of the New Year, when there's a rush on for people to be ready for the new school year or going back to work.

Moving at Christmas time can be beneficial if you have big plans for the New Year too... because you'll already be in your home, possibly still unpacking from your move, instead of hurrying to be ready for the removalist & stressing about the increased competition in the real estate market place.

And if you're in your new home during the New Year sales, you'll be ready to purchase your new furnishings, taking full advantage of bargains that are generally around just after Christmas.

We wish you the very best for the festive season, & hope that your move this Christmas is hassle free & full of exciting opportunities in the New Year!



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