

Packing Tips for Moving

Following is a guideline to help you systematically pack up your home for your upcoming move.

SUPPLIES:



GENERAL GUIDELINES:

- Use heavy-duty boxes and containers that can be secured tightly
 - Don't use low grade, odd sized, lightweight boxes as they won't pack, stack, or protect well.
 - It's worth it to purchase boxes specifically designed to protect dishes, clothing, and other special items
- Fill all the boxes to the top
 - Half-filled boxes tend to crush
 - Be careful not to overfill, as boxes with rounded tops are difficult to stack
 - Avoid loading more than 50 pounds into any box
- Use professional packing materials
 - This will save you time and help ensure the safety of your items
 - Use packing tape rather than masking tape or duct tape, as both tend to tear easily
 - Cushion contents with packing material such as bubble wrap, newspaper, or tissue
 - Label all boxes on the top & sides noting the content type
- Pack heavy items in small boxes
 - Example: canned goods, decorative items and DVDs in small boxes
 - Make certain all boxes are taped securely using 3 strips of tape on the top & bottom
- Label each box and indicate
 - The room it should go to at the destination location
 - Whether it is fragile
 - If it should be loaded last so that it can be unloaded first
- Make a list of things you will need over the course of the move
 - Separate these items such as toiletries, kitchen supplies, clothes, etc.



- Pack medicines in leak-proof containers
- Keep these items together and pack them in a box labeled "Open First"

CHINA AND GLASSWARE

- Use china boxes and packing paper
- Wrap each plate and saucer separately in packing paper
 - Place them in the box standing on edge
- Wrap bowls individually, then stack 2-4 of them together and wrap them again
 - Place in the box standing on edge
- Wrap cup handles in paper and then wrap the entire cup
 - Place them in the box with all handles pointing in the same direction
- Wrap everyday glasses individually
- Wrap each piece of stemware in packing paper & place in a china or liquor box with dividers

OTHER HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

- Pack books flat and alternate the spine and open side of the book
- Wardrobe boxes are ideal for hanging clothes
 - Other clothes, blankets, and linens can be folded and packed in linen boxes/suitcases
- Use china boxes for pots and pans
 - Stack them together as much as possible separated by packing paper
 - Fill all empty spaces in those boxes with newspaper
- Remove shades and light bulbs from lamps
 - Wrap lamps in layers of tissue paper and place in a box on their base
 - Wrap lampshades lightly in white tissue or packing paper and nest them inside each other as much as possible
 - Pack each nest of lamp shades in separate boxes
- Wrap electronics and audio-visual equipment heavily in bubble wrap and place in a box, preferably in the original box if possible
 - Place bubble wrap at the bottom and sides to prevent movement
 - If you remove the screws, tape them to the object they were taken from
 - Label cables and tighten transit screws
- Have rugs & draperies cleaned before moving and leave them in the wrapping for the move
- Use picture boxes and bubble wrap for paintings, mirrors, and glass
- Valuable pieces should be professionally crated by your moving company

PETS

- Cats and dogs should be taken in the car
 - Be sure to take along food, a water dish, a leash, and sheets to keep your car clean
- Pets can get carsick and may require frequent stops along the way
 - Be sure to plan ahead and reserve rooms at hotels that allow pets
- Depending on your pet's temperament and size, it may be advisable to have it flown by air
 - Check to see if your destination has any local requirements or restrictions
 - You may need a health certificate, which can be obtained from your veterinarian
 - Check with the airline regarding their requirements for pet containers
 - You might consider giving your pet a mild tranquilizer from your veterinarian
- Hamsters, birds and other small animals can easily be transported in your car
 - To help keep them calm and quiet cover their cages with a cloth
 - Make sure they have plenty of food and water available
 - It may be impractical and risky to move fish
 - Check with your pet store for recommendations on moving specific types of fish

PLANTS

- Approximately two weeks before the move, prune your plants to facilitate packing
 - Consult a florist or plant book for instructions
- A week before the move, place the plant in a black plastic bag along with a bug/pest strip, conventional flea collar, or bug powder
 - Seal the bag and place it in a cool area overnight to kill any pests on the plant or in the soil
- The day before the move, place the plants in cardboard containers
 - Hold them in place with dampened newspaper or packing paper
 - Use paper to cushion the leaves and place a final layer of wet paper on top
 - If it's not possible to take your plant with you, consider taking a cutting along in a plastic bag packed with wet paper towels
- On moving day, set the plant boxes aside and mark "Do Not Move"
 - Close the boxes and punch air holes in the top before loading them in your car
- During the move, park your car in the shade in the summer and in the sun in the winter
- Upon arrival, unpack the plants as soon as possible
- Remove the plants through the bottom of the box to avoid breaking the stems
- Do not expose plants to too much sunlight at first to allow them to gradually become accustomed to sunlight again

*Source: Amazing Moves and Johnson Storage & Moving