

A+ Moving & Storage

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Residential Move Tips

When you're packing yourself:

- Rule number one – the heavier the item, the smaller the box!
- Make sure you've got plenty of packing material available before you start packing. Those really important things that you need all the way up to the last minute – are the ones that will suffer damage or loss if you run out of the right packing materials.
- Try to avoid using newspaper as packing paper – the ink makes a mess on everything and causes extra work rewashing before putting away. Unprinted newsprint is available through your moving company for reasonable prices.
- Use visual management – color coding, signs, tags, labels, etc... To make delivery more efficient, use a different color marker for boxes to be delivered to specific rooms. Tag or label the destination rooms using the same color.
- Avoid using "Misc" or "Stuff" as identification on boxes. The more specific you are, the better chance you won't have to move the box from room to room while you figure out the right place for it.
- Plates, dishes, framed photographs, and glassware should all be packed vertically, keeping the weight of the object on the smallest surface edge.
- Pack similar items together. You don't want to put Grandma's china in the same box with Grandpa's cast iron skillet. Place heavier items like casserole dishes and mixing bowls in the bottom of the box, and drinking glasses and sugar bowls near the top of the box.
- When packing delicate items like figurines and collectibles, make sure to put packing material in and around small empty spaces. For example – put a small piece of wadded up paper or bubble wrap around the spout on a teapot, or around the head, neck, beak, or wings of a animal figurine.
- Place cushioning layers of crushed paper between layers of breakables.
- When packing breakables – make sure that nothing inside shifts if you shake the box. All empty spaces should be filled with cushioning of some sort.
- Don't allow boxes to "bulge" at the top or sides. When they are loaded onto the truck, there will be additional pressure on the top and sides – creating the perfect situation for breakage.
- Use upright wardrobe boxes for tall awkward items like artificial plants, gift wrap, sporting goods, or hanging lamps. Don't put too much weight in them, and make sure that the bottoms are taped securely.
- Place shoes, handbags, sweaters, or other lighter weight closet items into shopping bags or larger tote bags, and pack them into upright wardrobe boxes with hanging clothes.
- Use luggage, laundry hampers, duffel bags, tote bags, and other storage items that you already own to pack bedding, towels, pillows, and other soft items that don't weigh too much. Leave the toys in the toy box – just tape or strap it closed.
- Avoid using tape on polished or painted surfaces – items like toy boxes, chests or trunks, or other furniture items that you want to leave the contents in. The tape can leave a residue that may damage your items. Use straps, or wrap the item in a furniture pad, or old blanket or tarp before taping.
- Make sure that all boxes are sturdy and are completely sealed on the top and the bottom.