

# Self-Packing Tips



## Packing Materials

It's your stuff, so don't take chances! Use only strong, corrugated cardboard boxes preferably with sealable covers. We can supply you with specially made boxes, for everything from mattresses to mirrors. The boxes we provide may avoid damage that can result from using poor-quality packing materials. Your alternative is to collect boxes discarded by your grocery store or purchase some from a self-storage facility. Caution: Bugs can travel in used food boxes. Save old newspapers for use in packing, but remember that ink may rub off and stain clothing or other items. Here's a list a packing supplies that will come in handy:

- Plastic bags and labels for easy identification.
- Foam peanuts, Styrofoam pellets or "popcorn."
- Tissue or craft paper for delicate packing jobs.
- Corrugated paper rolls for figurines and fragile items.
- Gummed tape (1 1/2 to 2 inches wide) and/or strong twine for sealing boxes.
- Markers and labels for identifying contents of boxes.
- Notebook and pencil for box identification log.
- Scissors and/or sharp knife.

## Pre-packing Game Plan

Before your start, consider the following guidelines:

- Pack one room at a time. This will help you when it comes time to unpack.
- Pack a couple of boxes a day, starting well ahead of the move.

- Mark all boxes, designating room and box number. Make a box identification log to show the number of boxes packed per room, and total number of boxes packed. It's a good idea to leave space in your log for a comments section to note box conditions or location of high value goods. Notify your mover of any high value items.
- Be sure to have plenty of "filling" material available.
- Be sure that the bottoms of all boxes are secured and will hold the weight of the contents.
- Packing tape or gummed tape is better than masking tape.
- Pack heavier items toward the bottom of the box and lighter items toward the top. Try to keep a per-box weight of 50 pounds or less; it makes moving a lot easier. A general rule to remember on box size -- the heavier the item, the smaller the box.

## Packing Dishware

- Select a medium-sized box (or mover provided dishpack) and line the bottom with crumpled packing paper.
- With packing paper stacked neatly in place on a work table, center one plate on the paper.



## Self-Packing Tips (continued)



- Grasp a corner on several sheets of packing paper and pull the paper over the plate until sheets completely cover the plate. Stack a second plate on and, moving clockwise, grasp a second corner and pull sheets over the second plate.
- Stack a third plate. Grasp remaining two corners, folding two sheets of each corner (one at a time) over the plate.
- Turn your wrapped stack of plates upside down onto your packing paper.
- Re-wrap the entire bundle: start with one corner of packing paper and pull two sheets over the bundle, cover bundle with next corner, then the third corner; and finally, the fourth.
- Seal the bundle with packing tape.
- Place the bundle of dish-ware in a medium-size box so that the plates are standing on edge

Use this process on all saucers, bread and butter dishes, and other dishware. When packing smaller dishes, you may choose to stack in greater quantity.

### Packing Bowls and Cups

- With packing paper in place on the work table, position one cup six to eight inches from one of the corners.
- Now pull the near corner of the paper up and over the cup.
- Nest a second cup directly on top, with handle to left (second cup should “nest” itself in packing paper folded over the bottom cups).
- Pull the two side corners up and over one at a time, tuck corners inside the top cup.

- Hold the bottom and top cup in position and roll cups to the remaining corner. Fragile mixing bowls may be rolled in the same manner.
- Delicate cups, like china, should be wrapped one at a time. Antique glass or china should be stuffed with crumpled tissue and wrapped one at a time.

### Packing Glasses and Stemware?

- Stuff glasses and stemware with crumpled tissue or packing paper before wrapping.
- Lay on the corner of packing paper and roll it one or two full rotations (depending on size); pull sides of packing paper up and over glass/stemware and continue rolling to the far corner. Corrugated paper rolls or cellular boxes may be used for added protection.
- Place glasses and stemware toward the top of your box. Heavier items (dish-ware, pitchers, etc.) should be placed toward the bottom of the box.
- Delicate glassware and stemware should be placed in an upright position, not on its side.

No matter what you’re packing, you should use crumpled packing paper in between each layer to assure a snug fit wherever there’s a gap. All boxes with “fragile” items should be marked accordingly.

### Other Items for Special Attention

The list of individual household items is endless. While most can be packed by following our packing pointers, here are some additional tips for other common major items. If you want a more help on packing special items, call us.

- **Dresser Drawers** — Can contain clothes, but don’t overload them. A heavy load can cause damage.



## Self-Packing Tips (continued)



- **Canned Goods and Other Non-Frozen Food** — Should be packed upright with no more than 24-30 cans per box. Don't attempt to move perishables. Wrap glass containers and boxed foods individually and pack in small boxes.
- **Large Clocks** — Remove or secure pendulum in large clocks. Grandfather clocks should be prepared for moving by expert servicemen.
- **Drapes and Curtains** — Hang drapes over crossbars in wardrobe cartons, or pack folded in clean cartons. Remove curtains from rods, fold and pack in boxes or dresser drawers.
- **Lamps and Lampshades** — Remove bulbs, harps and shades. Pack lamps with bedding or wrap separately and place upright in clean, tissue-lined box. Wrap harp and finial (decorative knob) with packing paper and tape inside the box that contains the shade. Wrap shades in tissue, not newspaper.
- **Medicines** — Seal caps with masking tape. Wrap and pack upright in small cartons. Make sure you carry your important medication with you during travel.
- **Mirrors, Paintings and Pictures** — Tell us about valuable artwork for special care. Wrap small mirrors, pictures, paintings, and frames and place on edge in cartons. Please let our moving pros handle large wall painting or mirrors as we will place them in special cartons. For added safety, place tape diagonally across mirror to protect better against damage. Do not place newspaper directly against paintings.
- **Electronics** — Pack electronic equipment in original boxes when available. Otherwise, use strong, corrugated boxes with protective padding on the bottom. Wrap an old blanket or protective pad around the item and place it in the box. Place additional padding on top of the equipment before sealing. Wrap cords separately; label to identify usage and place in a plastic bag away from delicate surfaces. Non-detachable cords should also be wrapped.
- **Silverware** — Wrap each piece in cloth or low sulfur content paper to prevent tarnishing. Use an old blanket or moving pad as a wrap to prevent scratching the silverware chest.
- **Tools** — Drain fuel from power tools (do not ship flammables under any circumstances). Pack tools in small, strong boxes. Wrap separately if valuable.
- **Barbecue Grills and Propane Tanks** — Wrap grates and briquettes separately in a newspaper (or place all briquettes into a grocery bag) and place parts in a strong box. Pad the box with paper to reduce movement of contents. Propane tanks cannot be moved. Consult your local gas grill distributor for the safest method.
- **Cars and Motorcycles** — Cars and motorcycles shipped on the moving van should be drained nearly empty of fuel. Motorcycle batteries should be disconnected. Automobile antifreeze should be ample to protect against severe cold in winter.

