



# Packing Guide: Pack Like a Pro

How professional movers pack so things arrive in one piece, and how to label so unpacking is fast.

## Supplies

- Small boxes (1.5 cu ft) for books, canned goods, tools and anything heavy.
- Medium boxes (3 cu ft) for kitchen items, toys and small appliances.
- Large boxes (4.5 cu ft) for linens, pillows and lightweight bulky items.
- Dish packs or double-wall boxes for dishes and glassware.
- Wardrobe boxes for hanging clothes.
- Packing paper, bubble wrap, good tape, markers and resealable bags for hardware.

## The rules that prevent damage

- Heavy items go in small boxes. Keep each box under about 50 pounds.
- Fill empty space with paper so nothing shifts. A box should not rattle or cave in on top.
- Wrap plates individually and stand them on edge, like records. Do the same with framed art.
- Put a cushion of crumpled paper on the bottom and top of every box of fragile items.
- Tape the bottom of each box in an H pattern: down the seam and across both edges.
- Do not mix heavy and fragile items in the same box.
- Pack liquids in sealed bags, upright, in a box marked "this side up."

## Labeling system

- Write the destination room on the top and on two sides of every box.
- Add a short contents list, like "Kitchen: baking pans, mixer."
- Number your boxes and keep a log (see our Box Inventory sheet).
- Mark "FRAGILE" and "THIS SIDE UP" where it matters.
- Use one color of tape or marker per room if you want faster unloading.

## Room-by-room tips

| Room          | Tips                                                                                                      |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Kitchen       | Pack a week ahead and keep a few plates, a pan and utensils out. Wrap knives in towels and label the box. |
| Bedrooms      | Leave light clothes in dresser drawers if your mover allows it. Bag bedding and use it as padding.        |
| Bathroom      | Tape caps closed and bag toiletries. Keep medications with you, not on the truck.                         |
| Electronics   | Photograph cable setups before unplugging. Use original boxes if you have them.                           |
| Garage        | Drain gas and oil from mowers and small engines. Bundle long-handled tools with tape.                     |
| Art & mirrors | Tape an X across glass, wrap in paper and pad, and use picture boxes.                                     |

## Keep these with you

- Cash, jewelry, important papers, passports and checkbooks.
- Medications, chargers, keys and anything you cannot replace.
- Movers generally cannot carry hazardous items such as propane tanks, gasoline, paint thinner, ammunition, fireworks or cleaning chemicals. Ask your mover for its list.

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