

Our Packing Guide is full of top tips to help take the stress out of packing. We have divided the guide up by room for easy reference.

Kitchen

- If you keep your sharp knives in a knife-block, wrap them together for safety and protection. If they are not stored in a block it is best to wrap them separately rather than together.
- When wrapping pots and pans, utilise the space in the pan with other kitchen items and invert the lid, placing the handle down. Pots, pans, etc. can be stacked in a box with packing paper between them.
- Wrap each glass separately in tissue paper or wrapping paper. Wrap the stems of glasses until they are the same width as the base and bulb. This makes an easier shape to wrap and adds strength to a fragile item. Pack upright and in strong boxes. Place fragile labels on the completed boxes immediately.
- Pack plates vertically on their edge instead of stacking them on top of each other. They have a far greater weight bearing strength this way. Place saucers, plates and platters on edge - DO NOT STACK FLAT.
- Individually wrap dishes. Stack them flat - as you would store them in your kitchen cabinets. Cups and dishes may be placed inside each other and wrapped three or four in a bundle. Put layers of bubble wrap between each dish. Fill the top dish with crumpled wrapping paper.
- Put bottles of wine and spirits in wine boxes. A broken bottle can ruin many items.
- Pack small appliances in their original container. If this is not available, use a box padded with wrapping paper or your kitchen towels. Wrap the appliance in bubble wrap to ensure adequate cushioning. You can pack several small appliances to a box.
- Clean the oven thoroughly – grease left on the exterior will catch dust and dirt, and unfortunately, leave spots on anything that it touches.
- Dry out refrigerators and freezers and dispose of all perishables.
- Clean and dry washing machines and tumble dryers thoroughly. Disconnect and drain the hoses. Leave the door open for a few days prior to the move. If required, secure the tub following the manufacturer's guidelines to prevent swaying.
- For all large appliances, remove loose fittings and accessories and pack separately. Handywrap, tape or wedge all movable parts and doors. Make sure the inside and outside of all appliances are clean. You can stuff the inside of some appliances, such as washing machines and dryers, with towels or linens. Wrap the appliance with furniture blankets and tie securely.
- Gas appliances must be disconnected by a qualified plumber. At the other end, you will again need a qualified plumber to check the gas supply and reconnect your appliances.

Bedrooms

- Quilts, pillows, light/bulky items will be best strapped with handywrap and then packed in extra large boxes. If you have small fragile items, you can pack a few in between the pillows for extra protection - just don't forget they are there!
- Take the bedframe to pieces. Secure the pieces together with handywrap & keep all nuts and bolts together in a self seal bag. Be sure to label the pieces so you know how to reassemble it at the other end!
- Protect your mattress with a mattress cover or large sheets of plastic. You may want to cover them just before you walk out the door - the plastic may make it difficult to move downstairs or around awkward corners in your home.
- Dresses, coats, suits and anything else that normally lives on a hanger will travel best in a wardrobe box – just move the hangers straight into the box. Shoes can be packed in the bottom. The beauty of wardrobe boxes is that they can be used at your destination for temporary wardrobe storage. Clothing in drawers should be packed in suitcases or suitcase boxes, which can hold a lot of clothes without making the box too heavy.
- Put curtain rails and blinds in a protective bag and secure with handywrap.
- Dressers - Fill drawers with small breakable items and cushion well with loose clothes. Secure drawers with pad or blanket and tape. Do not overload drawers with heavy items.
- Use only book boxes for books -- they get very heavy, very fast. You can use small paperbacks to fill the sides of the box if there is extra space. Lay the books flat inside the box and alternate bindings to prevent spine damage.
- Valuables - Set aside jewellery, important papers and safe deposit box contents to be packed in a small container you can keep with you throughout the move.

Lounge

- Pack houseplants in tall boxes to protect foliage.
- Protect your suite with sofa and armchair bags.
- You may want to wrap your best furniture in bubble wrap or furniture blankets, not only to protect it from scratching, but to keep dust and dirt off too. Handywrap can also help to prevent small scratches and dust from damaging your furniture. Make sure to wrap the item well to prevent snags while you are moving.
- If you can take your furniture apart in any way to make it easier to move, make sure you put all nuts, bolts and screws in a self seal bag and secure the bag to the furniture. Use handywrap to hold drawers shut and wrap exposed legs (on tables and chairs) in bubble wrap or wrapping paper.
- After disassembling lamps, pack the bases in boxes stuffed with packing paper or bubble wrap. Pack lamp shades individually in boxes with plenty of packing paper for stuffing. Don't use newspaper because the ink smudges.

- After vacuuming rugs, roll up, place in a plastic cover and secure with handywrap.
- Tape an X of masking tape across mirrors and paintings framed with glass. Wrap each item in bubble wrap. Small mirrors can be packed in boxes. For a larger mirrors and large picture frames, it is best to use purpose-made picture boxes. Mark GLASS on the outside to prevent mishandling. Always pack and store on end.
- Box TV's and stereos upright and make sure they are well padded on all sides.
- CDs, games, DVDs etc should be packed in purpose made boxes. The same goes for any vinyl records you still have. Mark the boxes Fragile.
- Make sure ornaments and other small fragile items are well-protected with plenty of cushioning and packed separately in ornament boxes. Wrap first in tissue paper, then pad out with wrapping paper.

Dining Room

- Wrap chair legs and arms to prevent scratches. Bundle armless chairs in pairs, seat to seat, with a folded blanket or other padding between and tie seats together.
- For large tables, remove legs and tie together. Put nuts and bolts into a sealable bag and secure to underside of table top. Use a furniture blanket to cover tops. Wrap and secure spare table leaves.
- Wrap small table tops in a furniture blanket and wrap legs to prevent scratching.
- Wrap all pieces of china and glassware individually. Using several sheets of clean tissue paper, start from the corner, wrapping diagonally and continuously tucking in overlapping edges. Use plenty of tissue paper, followed by several layers of wrapping paper to cushion and protect all china and glassware. Use ornament boxes if necessary for particularly fragile items. Label boxes with room, contents and "FRAGILE—THIS SIDE UP."
- Flat China and Glassware can be wrapped individually with tissue paper and then bundled together with wrapping paper. Place each bundle in a plate box, on edge, using the cardboard pads to separate each bundle. Surround each bundle with crushed paper, being careful to leave no voids or unfilled spaces. Add two or three inches of paper on top of the bundle to protect rims and tape securely. Mark boxes "FRAGILE".
- Wrap china cups individually first in a double layer of paper protecting handles with an extra layer of clean paper. Then, pack cups upside down in a mug / glass box.
- To protect silver pieces from tarnishing, they should be completely enclosed in wrapping paper or bubble wrap.
- Tea sets and serving dishes should be wrapped carefully using tissue paper and wrapping paper like all fragile items and packed like china.
- Even if silverware is in a chest, fill all voids in the chest with newsprint to prevent shifting. The chest can be wrapped in a large bath towel.

Garage / Shed

- Loosen, lower and turn bicycle handlebars at right angles to save space. Clean and cover chains and pedals with corrugated card to protect other items from being snagged or soiled.
- Drain fuel and oil from lawn mowers before loading. Remove handle from hand mowers and place blade end in sturdy box. Mark properly.
- Drain hoses, coil and pack in boxes. Fill remaining space with lawn sprinklers, small garden hand tools, etc. Secure brooms, shovels, and other long-handled tools together with handywrap.

Notes

Use this space to make your own packing notes...