

HOW TO PACK FOR MOVING

Much of the secret of packing is having the right materials to work with. If you're going to do your own packing, these tips will guide you in packing successfully.

MATERIALS YOU WILL NEED

- ❖ **Wrapping Paper:** You are going to need plenty of paper for wrapping objects. Many people use old newspapers for this, but you can also use packing paper, which you can purchase from Merchants.
- ❖ **Cartons:** You will need many boxes in assorted sizes. You can either purchase new or used boxes from Merchants, or collect cartons from businesses such as grocery or liquor stores.
- ❖ **Sealing Tape:** The best tape for this purpose is plastic tape. The rolls should be at least 2 inches wide.
- ❖ **Magic Marker:** This is for marking your packed boxes with information such as carton contents, fragile, etc.

PRO-TIPS:

- ❖ Start collecting boxes as soon as possible - you always end up needing more than you think!
- ❖ Pack on a room-by-room basis. This will make unpacking much faster and far easier.
- ❖ Start packing early - it always takes longer than you might think, and packing early means you avoid frantic chaos on move day!
- ❖ Hanging clothes are best packed in wardrobe containers - no need to clean or press the clothes at destination - they just come out of the box on hangers and get hung in your new closets!

- ❖ What sizes boxes to use? The best rule-of-thumb is to use small boxes for heavy items, and large boxes for lighter/bulky items.
- ❖ Make sure you're not packing anything that could combust or explode - there are Federal Regulations regarding articles that can't be transported.

PACKING IN THE KITCHEN:

Clear a work area to pack in - it will make your tasks much easier!

When packing fragile articles, remember that heavy objects go on the bottom and lighter objects on top.

- ❖ **Packing flatware** - 3 plates at a time: Place one plate in the center of your paper stack, cover the plate with one corner of two sheets of packing paper, place second plate on top, and cover with opposite corner, place third plate on top, cover with both remaining corners. Cover entire bundle with two more sheets of paper in the same fashion and secure with tape. Repeat until your plates are wrapped for packing - stand each bundle of plates on end in your sturdy, medium-sized carton. This same procedure can be used on all plates, bowls, bread and butter dishes etc.
- ❖ **Packing cups and glasses:** Cups and glasses may be nested and three or four wrapped in each bundle. Use torn or cut paper in between each cup or glass as you stack. Wrap each stack of three or four cups and glasses diagonally on the stack of wrapping paper, off-center and closer to your body. Cover the stack with the corner of two sheets of paper closest to your body, then wrap each side corner inwardly over the bundle. Then roll the bundle up and secure with tape.

Should you have any questions or concerns, **at any stage of your move**, please call Merchants Moving & Storage Company at 262-631-5680.



Professional Household Movers

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- ❖ **Goblets & stemware:** Pack goblets and stemware singly (liquor cartons are great for this!). Follow the same wrapping procedure as for cups and glasses (just don't stack or next your goblets or stemware!)
- ❖ **Small kitchen appliances:** These are best packed together in one or two boxes than to pack them in with other items. When unpacking, you will find it very convenient. Wrap each appliance carefully in paper. If there are empty spaces in the box you're packing them in, wad up some packing paper to fill the gaps - this will stop the items from jostling around.
- ❖ **Pots & pans:** These items can be nested, using paper in between top protect them.

PACKING LAMPS:

- ❖ **Table Lamps:** Remove lamp shade and bulb. Wrap the cord around the lamp base. Line the bottom of the carton with lots of paper to protect the lamp. Spread out your wrapping paper in order to wrap the lamp securely and cover and protect the entire item. When wrapped, secure seam with tape. If your box is large enough, you can safely pack a few table lamps together - making sure to fill in gaps with wadded packing paper. Make sure to write "fragile" on the box!
- ❖ **Lamp Shades:** Lamp shades, where possible, should be nested to fit up to three in a box. Use clean packing paper (not newspaper) as a lining between each shade. Do NOT pack anything else with the lamp shades (they dent and ding easily). Again, make sure to mark this box "fragile"!

PACKING PICTURES:

- ❖ **Small pictures** can be wrapped and stood up in a normal packing boxes with other goods.
- ❖ **Large pictures** should be packed by your mover in a specially designed carton to protect the item.
- ❖ **You can pack mid-sized pictures in modified cartons:** choose a carton that is larger than your picture when open at both ends. Flatten the carton and seal one end with tape. Wrap your picture well in multiple sheets of clean wrapping paper (not newspaper) - sort of how you would pack a present. Then carefully place the wrapped and secured picture into the carton you prepared and tape the open end shut - make sure you write "fragile" on the carton!

MISCELLANEOUS PACKING TIPS:

- ❖ **Hat & Shoe Boxes:** Small boxes of this type can be consolidated and all packed together in a larger carton. Fill in small gaps with wadded wrapping paper.
- ❖ **Toys:** Generally do not need to be wrapped, can just be placed in large cartons and sealed up.
- ❖ **Loose shoes:** Same as toys.
- ❖ **Books and records:** Stand on end - use SMALL boxes - they get heavy fast!
- ❖ **Aerosol Containers:** DO NOT PACK - they can't be transported per Federal Regulations.

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