

How To Pack Boxes Like A Pro | Smart Moving Tips

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Details:

Packing boxes to move house can be a daunting and time-consuming job.

You might be wondering: Where do I even start?

Well, there is an art to packing boxes which you should know about.

Here are seven practical steps for packing moving boxes.

1. Make sure your boxes are strong enough

The last thing you want is to lift a box and have everything inside it fall out the bottom – and potentially break or be damaged in the process.

Ensure that you have properly secured your boxes – especially ones which will be carrying heavier items.

Use the supplier's closure instructions and appropriate packing tape. A cross of tape is not proof that a damaged or overloaded box is safe.

2. Spread the load of heavy items

Even if you have reinforced your boxes, don't overload them with too many heavy items in one particular box.

These will not only make the boxes harder to move, but you also risk the box giving way under too much weight.

Distribute dense contents across suitable boxes while keeping delicate items protected from heavier loads.

3. Place heavier items on the bottom of the box

Generally speaking, your heaviest items should be packed at the bottom of your boxes.

Check the support required by the contents; plates and other fragile goods need their own arrangement rather than automatically becoming a bottom layer.

From there you should work in layers, with less heavy items in the middle and the lightest items at the top of the box.

4. Allow room for cushioning

To provide suitable support for your household items, you need to make sure you allow some room for cushioning in your boxes.

Choose clean cushioning suitable for the contents and finish. Packing paper or bubble wrap may be appropriate for some items; printed newspaper can transfer marks and should not be assumed suitable

for direct contact.

Towels, blankets or sheets may be suggested for general cushioning, but may not hold the protective shape needed by delicate items. Confirm suitability for the object and finish.

5. Separate your fragile items

When it comes to fragile items like kitchenware and glasses, individually wrap these and pack them by themselves in their own boxes with plenty of padding around them.

Don't overload these boxes or place other heavy items in them alongside the fragile items.

6. Check and contain accepted liquids

Before packing liquid soaps, hair-care products or cleaning supplies, confirm the carrier accepts the particular products and follow any relevant label or safety-document instructions.

For accepted liquids, suitable secondary containment can help manage leakage, but a sealed plastic bag does not make a restricted or hazardous product acceptable for transport.

7. Label your boxes well

Once you have finished packing your boxes, be sure to label them well.

If they contain fragile items, clearly mark them as 'FRAGILE' or 'THIS WAY UP'.

Also clearly mark which room the box needs to head to for unpacking at your new house.

This is useful information for your movers and will make your job of unpacking a little easier.

Need some help packing your boxes from real pros?

We can move the accepted items in your agreed inventory and provide professional packing where included in your quote. Tell us which rooms or items you would like help with.

Our trained movers know the right way to pack different items and will make sure your boxes are correctly labelled – making it easier for you later on.

For a competitive quote on your packing and moving needs, contact us today on 1800 500 584

Choose the box before deciding how much to put in it

Check its condition, dimensions and intended loading guidance. The packing materials page lists general sizes, while choosing moving boxes explains the trade-offs. Litres describe capacity; they are not a universal maximum loaded weight.

Inspect reused boxes for weak corners, moisture, tears and worn closures. Replace an unsuitable box rather than relying on extra tape to hide the problem. For specialist goods, check whether fitted support or a different format is needed before starting to pack.

Pack a trial arrangement for dense or delicate contents

Wrap individual breakables and arrange compatible support before filling the box. Keep objects from making unprotected contact with one another and avoid placing heavy goods over fragile parts. Allow room for protection without forcing the lid shut.

If several boxes will hold similar contents, inspect the first arrangement before repeating it. Reconsider the box size or quantity if it bulges or seems unsuitable. More cushioning is not always a solution if it presses against a delicate object or leaves insufficient support underneath.

For plates and glasses, use the specific crockery guide . For a painting or electronic screen, use its relevant guidance and manufacturer or specialist instructions rather than transferring the kitchen-packing method to another material.

Keep liquids and restricted items out of assumptions

Identify containers with liquids before they enter mixed boxes. Check acceptance with the mover and keep product identification available. Do not decant an unknown product into an unlabelled container to make it easier to pack.

Use items requiring separate moving decisions to prepare the discussion. Acceptance, packaging and route restrictions are separate from whether a container appears leakproof. If a product is not accepted, agree an appropriate alternative rather than hiding it among ordinary goods.

Make labels useful to both loading and unpacking

Use the destination room name consistently, especially when several bedrooms or offices need to be distinguished. Add a contents description and mark any relevant orientation or handling needs. Numbering boxes can help when many contain similar items.

Keep first-needed boxes identifiable and journey essentials separate. A box marked kitchen may still be difficult to search if it contains unrelated objects from several rooms. Group the contents deliberately while respecting the protection and loading requirements.

Store completed boxes without blocking the move

Place packed boxes in a suitable dry area and keep doors, stairs and the handling route clear. Follow the boxes' stacking guidance and avoid pressure on sensitive contents. Do not assume all plastic containers or reused cartons can support the same load.

Before collection, inspect closures and tell the team about any package needing assessment. If a box has become wet, damaged or unstable, repack appropriately. Keep children and pets away from the active packing and loading area.

Inspect at arrival and raise problems promptly

Direct boxes to the agreed rooms, check the inventory and unpack fragile items in a suitable clear space. Record damage or missing items and contact the mover through the agreed process. Keep relevant packaging details for follow-up rather than discarding them immediately.

For professional packing, provide the inventory and any special contents through the quote form . Discuss insurance terms , including the conditions for self-packed goods. Good packing can reduce avoidable risk but does not guarantee that every item will arrive undamaged.

Does a cross of tape prove that a box is strong enough?

No. Tape helps close a suitable box, but a cross on the base does not prove the carton can carry the intended contents. Inspect the structure and follow the supplier's assembly, closure, loading and stacking guidance. Replace damaged or unsuitable cartons. Choose protection for the contents and

check that the flaps close normally without bulging. If the box sags or the load is inappropriate, divide and repack it rather than adding tape as a substitute for adequate construction.

Can every cleaning liquid travel if it is in a sealed plastic bag?

No. A sealed bag does not change a product's transport restrictions or handling requirements. Keep the original label, identify the exact product and ask the mover whether it is accepted before packing. Follow the product and accepted-service instructions for handling, containment and any separate arrangement. Keep chemicals away from food and delicate household goods. If a product cannot travel, check an appropriate local disposal route rather than hiding it in a normal carton or assuming the crew will remove it.

Should plates always go under heavier items?

No. Give plates an appropriate protected arrangement without pressure from heavier objects. Wrap pieces individually, provide suitable support and separation, and choose grouping and orientation for the actual crockery and carton. Do not use spare space above fragile goods as an invitation to add dense tools or appliances. Check that the packing closes normally and label the handling needs and destination. Ask the packing team about valuable or unusual pieces before collection rather than relying on a general layering rule.

What is a useful sequence for packing an ordinary carton?

Choose a sound box suited to the contents, assemble it according to the supplier's instructions and prepare compatible protection. Pack related items with support and separation where needed, keeping hard or heavy contents from pressing on delicate parts. Check the load and close the flaps normally. Label the destination room, a useful contents description and relevant handling notes. If the arrangement shifts, bulges or cannot close, correct it before placing the box with the completed load.

How should I label cartons for delivery and storage?

Use destination-room names that match the plan at the new home, plus a brief contents description. Identify first-needed items and add fragile or orientation instructions where relevant. Mark storage cartons distinctly and keep an accessible inventory so they can be requested later. Remove confusing old markings from reused boxes. Tell the delivery contact how the labels relate to rooms and identify anything travelling separately, so a good packing job is followed by the correct placement.