

Best Boxes For Moving | Types & Packing Guide

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Details:

Moving boxes come in all sorts of shapes and sizes.

There are also boxes for lighter items, as well as more sturdy boxes which can house heavier items.

For moving the average house or apartment, you will need a range of different boxes.

The best boxes for moving will be the ones which are best suited to housing all your possessions for your move.

Smaller is often better than bigger

Many people who move regularly swear by using larger numbers of smaller boxes rather than cramming too many things into lots of bigger boxes.

Smaller boxes can be easier to handle at both ends of your move and you can pack them full with more related items meant for the same room at your new house.

Using too many bigger boxes can make your unpacking duties more difficult if you fill them with some items meant for the kitchen, some items meant for the laundry and some items meant for the bathroom.

Get a mix of standard and sturdy boxes

Some household items might take up a bit of room but don't weigh too much. Think about the linen cupboard, with towels and sheets. Meanwhile, other items like cutlery and crockery take up less room but are far heavier. Given this, you should source a mix of both standard and sturdy boxes. Standard boxes may suit lighter towels and sheets when their loading guidance allows, while sturdy boxes are a far better option for things like cutlery and crockery. The more sturdy boxes are often sold as 'Heavy Duty' boxes.

Source the right boxes for the job

There are all types of moving boxes available for packing all types of items. Of course, the most common boxes are standard rectangle moving boxes which come in a range of different sizes and are good for packing most things. But do you have a wine collection that you are looking to move? There are boxes specifically made for transporting bottles of wine. There are also boxes made to fit and protect flat-screen televisions, while there are even 'wardrobe' boxes which allow you to keep some of your clothes on hangers during a move. This can simplify transferring hanging clothes, but does not guarantee that garments remain uncreased.

Are cardboard or plastic boxes best for moving?

Most people use cardboard boxes to pack away most of their possessions for a move. Cardboard boxes are widely used for moving and can be convenient to flatten after use. Compare the actual price,

strength, reuse and disposal options instead of assuming every cardboard box is cheaper or has a lower environmental impact than every plastic container. Sourcing a few plastic boxes can also be handy, especially to house items which you might want to keep in storage in a garage or shed at your new property. However, cheap plastic boxes can easily crack during a move if they are overloaded with heavy items or have too much weight stacked on top of them.

Need the best boxes for your next move?

To discuss suitable boxes and materials for your move, call us on 1800 500 584

Choose by contents, loaded weight and dimensions

Start with what must fit inside and how the packed box will be handled. Dense contents such as books or crockery can become heavy before a large box is full. Bulky linen can need more space without the same density. Use several suitable sizes rather than forcing every room into one box format.

The packing materials page lists small boxes at 403 × 301 × 330 mm, about 40 litres; medium boxes at 406 × 298 × 431 mm, about 52 litres; and large boxes at 431 × 406 × 596 mm, about 104 litres. These published dimensions and rounded volumes help compare formats. They are not maximum loaded weights or proof that every item of the same volume will fit.

Check the supplier's load and stacking guidance for the specific box. A description such as heavy duty is not a universal weight rating. Allow for wrapping and fitted supports when checking internal fit, and confirm dimensions and availability when ordering rather than relying only on a category name.

Inspect reused boxes before committing the load

Check for damaged corners, torn panels, moisture, weak seams and closures that no longer work as intended. A box that held a light product in a shop may not suit dense household goods. Do not conceal a damaged structure with additional tape and assume the strength has been restored.

Make sure old markings will not confuse the destination or handling instructions. Add a clear room label and a useful description of the contents. Keep each box's purpose manageable so the person unpacking does not need to carry it between several rooms to find where everything belongs.

For plastic containers, inspect the body, lid and handles and follow the maker's instructions. Confirm whether the container is suitable for the intended stacking and transport. A lid that closes is not evidence that the container can carry any weight placed inside or on top of it.

Match specialist formats to the actual item

Wine, television and wardrobe boxes are examples of specialist formats, not interchangeable solutions. Check bottle dimensions and dividers, the television's model and supports, or the hanging-clothes arrangement before buying. Ask us which formats are available for your location and suitable for the items you need to pack.

For a television or other electronics, consult the maker's packing instructions and use the electronics guide . For crockery and glassware, use packing glasses and plates . The right outer box still needs suitable internal protection.

Test the packing arrangement before sealing every box

Prepare one representative box for a group of similar contents. Check that items are supported, the box closes normally and the intended handling is appropriate. Adjust the size, quantity or protection before repeating a weak arrangement across the whole room.

Keep the packed boxes in a dry, suitable place away from the main moving route. Tell the team about delicate contents and any containers that require assessment. If a box bulges, sags or will not close without pressure on the goods, unpack it and change the arrangement.

We supply packing boxes in Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth. Ask about the required sizes, quantities, current prices and collection or delivery arrangement before planning your packing day. Use box sizes explained to compare the formats and 1800 500 584 to discuss the order.

Does heavy duty mean a box has a standard maximum weight?

No. "Heavy duty" is a description, not a universal maximum loaded weight. Ask for the specific carton's construction, load and stacking guidance, then choose it for the contents and handling required. Inspect its condition, including the base and seams, even if it is new. Use smaller suitable loads for dense goods and leave space for protective materials. If a carton is damaged, bulging or cannot close normally, repack rather than treating the label or additional tape as proof of strength.

Which published box capacities are listed?

Our example sizes are approximately 40 litres for the small format, 52 litres for medium and 104 litres for large. Their dimensions are 403 × 301 × 330 mm, 406 × 298 × 431 mm and 431 × 406 × 596 mm respectively. These rounded capacities help compare space, but do not establish weight ratings. Check the actual supplied box and usable internal dimensions where fit matters, allowing for wrapping and supports around the item.

Are specialist wine, TV and wardrobe boxes always available?

Check availability for the actual format and your location before ordering. Wine, TV and wardrobe cartons are specialist formats to ask about, with different internal arrangements and size limits. Give the supplier the item details and quantity, then confirm the current format, dimensions, support system and supply arrangements for your location. A TV box must suit the model and protection requirements, while a wardrobe box needs its own hanging-load guidance. The right category name does not establish suitability for every item.

Should I choose cardboard boxes or plastic containers?

Compare the actual container's condition, strength, loading instructions, price and intended reuse. Cardboard cartons can be convenient to flatten after a move, while suitable plastic containers may have a continuing storage purpose. Plastic lids and handles can still fail if the container is overloaded or stacked beyond its design. Inspect reused containers and remove confusing labels. Neither material is automatically the best or lowest-impact option for every load; choose around the contents and the way it will be handled.

What mix of boxes should I order for a household move?

List the contents before estimating quantities, separating dense goods, bulky light items, delicate pieces and anything needing a specialist format. Choose several suitable sizes rather than filling every room with large cartons. Include protective materials and keep destination-room labels useful. Inspect any reusable boxes before counting them toward the order. Ask the packing team to assess uncertain quantities or unusual items, and revise the estimate as decluttering and packing reveal the actual load.

