

## **Packing Tips**

- Don't just start packing - plan how you will pack. Pack items you seldom use first. Pack items of similar size and weight together. Don't make cartons too heavy to easily lift (40# is suggested).
- Always use proper packing cartons and wrapping materials. Use professional packing tape, which is a wide, strong, clear or brown tape. Masking tape is not strong enough to support the weight of a fully packed carton. Tape all cartons closed on the bottom and top (all seams) with at least 4" overlap of packing tape - - don't just fold the end flaps closed.
- Use crumpled unprinted newspaper to pack items in boxes. Label the contents on the outside of all boxes, along with the rooms to which they should be delivered in your new home. When packing fragile items, clearly mark fragile on the outside of the box, with arrows on the sides to indicate the correct upright position.
- Indicate boxes holding essential items, such as cooking utensils, bedding, linens, and toiletries that need to be opened first by writing "OPEN FIRST" on the box and making sure these are the last boxes to be loaded on the van.

**Certain Possessions require specific care when packing:**

- China  
Wrap each item separately in unprinted newspaper, and use a specially partitioned box.
- Stemware  
First, wrap the stems for extra protection; then wrap each glass individually and place upside down in a partitioned box.
- Mirrors and glass-covered photos and artwork  
Cross the glass with a series of masking tape "X's" to help strengthen the glass, then wrap in a generous cushion of clean paper, and place in a flattened packing or telescoping carton.
- Silverware  
Nest utensils in groups of three or four, wrap securely and place in silver chest or cushioned box.
- Lampshades  
Handle shades only by the wire frames; place in large boxes. Shades can be nested in one box if separated by clean paper.
- Clothes  
Clothes can be folded and boxed. For faster unpacking, you can obtain special wardrobe boxes from your mover, allowing you to neatly pack by leaving clothes on hangers.

- Small appliances, computers, stereo equipment

Unplug all electronic equipment such as television sets, home computers, stereos, etc.. 24 hours in advance of a move so they will be at room temperature on moving day. Moving a TV set and other electronic equipment in which heat is still retained could cause internal damage.

- If possible pack small appliances, computers, stereo equipment and VCRs in their original boxes. Otherwise, cushion appliances with crumpled packing paper. Tape down moving parts, such as stereo turntable arms.
- Upon arrival at your new home, let your PC "acclimate" to room temperature before plugging in.

- Glass jars and bottles

Pack with bubble wrap or several layers of paper. Secure stoppers or lids with masking tape to the top of the jar or bottle. Don't move flammable items.

- Statuary, figurines, curios

Wrap generously in bubble pack, wrap in a layer of clean paper or foam packing "peanuts" in between items. Objects with delicate appendages, such as candelabras or figurines with extended arms, should be wrapped with extra bubble pack and surrounded by extra packing material.

- Record albums, tapes, CDs

Stack these items on end so they can absorb shock with less chance of damage. Pack tightly so they're secure and can't shift.

- Books

Lay your books flat in an 18"x14"x12" carton, alternate the bindings from front to back to prevent spine damage.

- Antiques, delicate furniture

Movers can supply specially made crates to secure and ship fragile items and antiques.