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Tips on Packing for Your Move

1. Start packing 3-4 weeks before the move. It always takes longer than you think and more boxes than you've collected. Label the boxes carefully as you pack, indicating both the contents and the room for placement in your new home. Focus on one area at a time and stay organized as you go.

2. Wrap small appliances in inkless newsprint (your daily newspaper is fine, too, just messier) or use towels and linens as padding. Use medium sized boxes and securely tape the bottom, then place a towel or paper for padding. You can usually pack several small appliances per box.

For larger appliances, check your owner's manual for any special instructions before you start. Clean the inside and outside of all appliances thoroughly. Towels or linens can be packed inside your washing machine and dryer if you have more than you'll use as padding around lamps, mirrors and other items. Tape down any parts that could come loose or be lost, i.e., stove burners, electrical cords, screws or items needed for reassembly.

3. Wrap breakable things from the kitchen and china closet individually in bubble wrap, tissue or newspaper. Put the heavier items on the bottom of the box. Fill the top with crumpled paper. Also wrap non-breakable items in paper before putting in a box. For delicate items moving companies have cell pack boxes available for extra protection if you have things of particular concern.

4. Use only small boxes for books and fill in the sides to fit snugly. Banker's boxes are the ideal size and have a nice fitting lid.

5. You can move clothing on hangers straight from your closet by putting them in moving company wardrobe boxes that have a rod. Clothing from shelves and drawers can be packed in suitcases or boxes. Little "tuck-ins" are great between sweaters and t-shirts.

6. Ideally, electronic equipment such as stereos, TVs and computers should be packed in their original boxes with their original packing material. This is probably not available if you've had the equipment for awhile, so wrap it instead in plastic bags and each piece in bubble wrap, then use a heavy box or furniture pads, depending on the size of the item.
7. If your furniture comes apart in any way to make it easier to move, make sure you put all nuts, bolts and screws in a small zip-lock bag and tape the bag to the piece. Tape drawers shut where necessary. Wrap the legs on tables and chairs in bubble wrap or inkless newsprint.
8. For mirrors and framed artwork tape an X of masking tape across the glass just in case of breakage, use corrugated cardboard corners and wrap each piece in bubble wrap. Pad the bottom of a large box. Pack freely with plenty of space and lots of packing material on the sides, between items and on top. For short moves or extremely large items carefully wrap in blankets. Make sure you label everything FRAGILE.
9. Consider giving your plants to friends if moving out of state or if there will be a delayed delivery.
10. Gather your valuables and important papers together and plan to carry them with you. Remember to clear your safety deposit boxes.
11. Tape and seal all non-toxic, non-flammable cleaning fluids in plastic bags. Drain your lawn mower and power tools of all gasoline or fluids.

BONUS: Get a babysitter! This is not something you can accomplish during nap time.



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