



## packing tips

- Gather Packing materials
  - Sturdy Boxes – Professional movers’ boxes (ask about used boxes because a new wardrobe box could cost up to \$7.00) Boxes from the grocery store are much less sturdy. Get boxes of all sizes – large boxes for lampshades, etc. and smaller boxes for books, knickknacks, etc. Remember a large box full of books may be just too heavy! Get more than you think you’ll need.
  - Scissors and/or a razor knife
  - Note Pad or Spiral Notebook
  - Dark, permanent markers
  - Packing tape
  - Bubble wrap
  - Packing Peanuts
  - Newspaper
  - Blankets
  - Old Pillows
- A “to do” list, so you don’t forget something important.
- Start early, packing rarely used items or out-of-season items
- Sort things to be sold, donated, recycled, or trashed.
- Pack room-to-room, putting like things together
- Mark each box clearly with a number on several sides of the box.
  - Note that number in your note pad or spiral notebook, listing what is in that box, what room it came from, and what room it will go to in the new house.
- Mark each box with room in new home so your movers or those helping you move will be able to take that box directly to its new location.
- Wrap breakable items separately and mark box clearly - FRAGILE
- Reinforce the bottom of each box with packing tape. Use wide tape to seal carton.
- Don’t pack with too few or too many items in each box. Too few will cause the box to crush and too much may cause the box to break open.
- Pack heavier items on bottom and lighter on top.
- Use packing material between layers with cushioning on sides and top using crumpled newspaper, a blanket, or pillow.
- If using a professional mover, decide what you will move yourself.
  - Always keep valuables such as legal documents, checkbooks, credit cards, stock certificates, precious, valuable, and sentimental items, photos, and houseplants with you.
  - Set aside boxes with toiletries, towels, cooking utensils, some toys for children that you will want immediately.
  - Pack a kitchen bag with paper plates, cups, plastic utensils, paper towels, dish detergent, sponge, pet food and dishes, trash bags
- Pack CD’s and records (you remember, 33 1/3’s) in an upright box, not stacked flat.
- If something is dismantled, put screws, fittings, handles in a plastic bag and tape it to the larger piece.
- Seal open boxes so prevent spilling
- Perishable, flammable, combustible items should not be packed