

Packing Tips

Recommended Supplies

- various size boxes
- cardboard
- plastic sheets/tarp
- blankets
- padding/bubble wrap
- newspaper/wrapping paper
- box/shipping tape
- scissors/pocket knife
- small tool kit
- sandwich bags (to hold appliance/furniture hardware)
- gloves



General Information

- Keep all boxes 50 lbs. or less. Place heavy items in small boxes and light items in big boxes
- Pack non-breakables tightly in smaller boxes, so they're not too heavy
- Buy clean newsprint to wrap items, and bubble wrap for padding
- Pack breakables loosely in plastic storage bins with lots of bubble wrap
- Rent furniture pads
- Mark your boxes by room, so you know exactly where everything goes. Color coding or number systems work great. (i.e. red dots for bathroom, blue dots for kitchen)
- Write "Fragile" on all boxes with breakables and stack these boxes on top

Packing the Big Items

- Beds
 - Tie bed frames together with tape or rope
 - Label each piece so they're easy to reassemble
- Bureaus
 - Fill drawers with clothes or well wrapped fragile items
 - Cover with a blanket or furniture pads and rope securely
- Tables
 - Remove legs, pad and tie together

- Put nuts and bolts in a bag and tape under the table
- Big Appliances
 - Empty, defrost and drain the fridge, freezer, and dishwasher
 - Clean interiors and place accessories in a bag
 - Stuff towels between washer sides to prevent rotating and tape down moveable parts
 - Cover with a blanket and tie
- Computer, TV's, and Electronics
 - Use original packaging, or purchase electronic-specific boxes

Packing the Small Items

- Small appliances
 - Put your microwave, VCR, etc. into boxes
 - cushion with wadded paper
- Books
 - Pack them flat in small cartons, alternating bindings
 - Try to keep each box under 30 lbs
- Clothing
 - Pack hanging items, including drapes, in wardrobe boxes
 - Leave small items in drawers
- Collectibles
 - Wrap fragile items in bubble wrap
 - Tape securely
- CD's
 - Pack upright
 - Cushion with newspaper
- Kitchenware
 - Stack pots and pans
 - Cushion with newspaper
 - Label "Open First"
- Dishes
 - Never stack them flat
 - Wrap each piece in bubble wrap
 - Pack plates & saucers on edge, with cups & bowls placed around them

Packing the Awkward Items

- Chairs
 - Wrap arms and legs with bubble wrap
 - Leave slipcovers on or buy chair bags for protection
- Bicycles
 - Loosen the handlebars and turn them sideways
 - Cover chains and pedals to keep grease off other items
- Mirrors, Artwork, and frames
 - Wrap small pieces in newsprint and pack in mirror boxes

- Cover larger pieces with cardboard, tape securely and stand them along the truck's sides or inside wardrobe boxes
- Lawn furniture
 - If heavy or bulky disassemble
 - Place nuts and bolts in a plastic bag and tie together
- Garage and attic items
 - Use medium-sized boxes for spray paints, brushes, car waxes, etc
 - Throw away oily rags or anything combustible
- Pets
 - Always keep them in pet carrier up front with you
 - Ask your vet how to make their, and your, move less traumatic
 - For more information visit www.worklife.vt.edu

References

http://www.century21.com/learn/content.aspx?refstr=lrn_packing_tips