

How to Pack Boxes for Moving Like a Pro

Packing can easily be the most stressful part of moving. If done poorly, it can lead to broken items, a disorganized move, and extra time spent on both ends of your transition. But with the right approach, packing boxes can be simple, efficient, and even satisfying. Here's how to do it right:

1. Gather the Right Supplies

Before you pack a single item, make sure you have everything you need:

- **Sturdy boxes** in a variety of sizes
- **Packing tape** and a tape dispenser
- **Bubble wrap** and or **clean white packing paper** (we don't recommend using old newspapers, since the ink makes dirty dishes and creates more work for you)
- **Markers** for labeling
- **Scissors** and a **box cutter**

We don't stock or sell packing materials, so we've done the homework for you! Here are links to everything you need to pack like a pro!

1. Packing tape: <https://amzn.to/3V3rWF5>
2. XX large linen cartons <https://amzn.to/4m8imMJ>
3. Mirror Packs <https://amzn.to/40sSanG>
4. Bubble wrap <https://amzn.to/46QW9hl>
5. 4 Pack Bubble wrap <https://amzn.to/4lwXSgK>
6. Moving bags (great for college dorm moves, reusable, easy to store! <https://amzn.to/453lC5d>
7. Dish packs <https://amzn.to/451AGjH>
8. Medium and small box assortment <https://amzn.to/3GV5RoQ>
9. Letter-sized banker boxes (great for files) <https://amzn.to/44XSbRS>
10. Legal-sized banker boxes (great for files) <https://amzn.to/44FjSA9>
11. Book boxes <https://amzn.to/4eYVvk8F>
12. Box cutter <https://amzn.to/44VUiWh>
13. Sharpie (to label boxes) <https://amzn.to/3GCT8XU>
14. Preprinted color-coded labels <https://amzn.to/4luUsKA>
15. Ziplock bags to keep wires and small hardware together <https://amzn.to/44ZeO8L>
16. Mattress Bags K/Q to keep your mattress protected <https://amzn.to/4oBMMsZ>
17. Mattress Bags T/F to keep your mattress protected <https://amzn.to/4mp8sqG>

Tip: Don't over-rely on old boxes from grocery stores—they often aren't strong enough for moving and typically aren't very clean and may contain insects you don't typically want to invite into your home.

2. Pack by Room

Stay organized by packing one room at a time. This method:

- Helps you stay focused.
- Makes unpacking much easier.
- Ensures nothing gets misplaced or mixed up.

Label each box with both the room name and a brief list of contents (e.g., *Kitchen – Dishes and Glassware*).

3. Use the Right Size Boxes

- **Heavy items** (like books) should go in **small boxes**.

- **Light items** (like pillows or bedding) can go in **large boxes**.
- This keeps boxes from becoming too heavy to lift—and from falling apart.

4. Protect Fragile Items

- Wrap fragile items individually in bubble wrap or packing paper.
- Be sure to pad the bottoms of the boxes when packing dishes with a good layer of crumpled-up paper to provide a nice cushion or use a good layer of bubble wrap.
- Fill any empty spaces with crumpled paper, pillows, or towels to prevent shifting.
- Mark boxes with "FRAGILE" clearly on multiple sides for glassware, dishes, electronics or decor.

For dishes/plates, (as well as stemware) pack them vertically like records—they're stronger on their edges!

5. Distribute Weight Evenly

When packing:

- Put heavier items at the **bottom** of the box.
- Layer lighter items on top.
- Keep the overall weight manageable so boxes aren't too heavy to move safely.

6. Seal Boxes Properly

Always tape the bottom seam of the box first using the "H" method—one strip along the seam and two strips crossing the edges—to reinforce it. Then, securely tape the top shut once packed.

7. Create an Essentials Box

Pack one box with things you'll need immediately after the move:

- Toiletries
- Chargers
- Basic kitchen supplies
- A few days' clothes
- Important documents

Label it "OPEN FIRST" and keep it with you during the move.

Final Thoughts

Taking the time to pack carefully can save you hours (and a lot of frustration) later. By using the right materials, staying organized, and protecting your belongings properly, you'll be setting yourself up for a smooth move—and a much easier unpacking process.

Have a question about what to do or how to pack a certain item? Contact RL Davis Movers! We are available to answer your questions.