

Packing and Storage Tips

- Take quick pictures of all your rooms before packing. Pull out any valuable items to take specific pictures of in case you ever need them for insurance. Make an inventory of your stored items and keep together and in a safe place.
- Purchase a variety of box sizes, plenty of tape and markers to label. Keep in mind your fragile items and purchase bubble wrap, dish pack sets and peanuts for added protection.
- Pack one room at a time, focusing on rooms that aren't used daily. Leave a box in each room for last minute additions for items you plan on using up to the day of your move.
- Use furniture drawers to store light items.
- When boxing items that can shift, stuff newspaper in the empty areas to prevent the boxes from collapsing when other items are stacked on them.
- When storing delicate heirlooms, take extra precautions to wrap them in bubble wrap and store in specialty boxes.
- Store heavy items in smaller boxes and save light items such as bedding and pillows in large boxes. This will make lifting much easier and protect your back.
- Pack books flat to protect their spine. Don't put fragile items in with books and pack books in smaller boxes as they will be heavy.
- When storing business or personal files, label all boxes carefully with the contents as you may need to retrieve important information later.
- Try to keep your boxes in uniform size as they stack better with larger sizes on the bottom and smaller on top. Be cautious of heavy boxes on top as they could compress the bottom boxes.
- Label all boxes for easy identification. You could change marker colors or place a symbol on the box indicating the level of importance to help you recognize which ones are crucial to your first few days in your new home.
- Seal all your boxes with packing tape and reinforce.
- Pictures and mirrors should be wrapped in large bubble wrap and placed in specialty mirror boxes. They have less air space and should be stored on their ends.
- Dishes and glasses should be individually wrapped in wrapping paper and placed in dish pack boxes. Nest your cups and bowls with paper or small bubble wrap between them. Improvise with wash cloths and towels.

- Always use a high quality lock. Do not use luggage locks or locks that can be twisted off or easily cut. We recommend a disk lock as they are extremely difficult to cut off with bolt cutters.
- If you think you may be storing for a longer period and may need to have access to particular items, consider renting the next size up and create a walkway toward the back to maneuver in.
- Leave a small space for ventilation between your items and the wall.
- Do not store food, hazardous or flammable materials, or live plants or animals in your unit. There are laws restricting certain items, please see your contract for details.
- Place items that you do not need in the back of the unit, potential items you may need access to in the future towards the front, and items that you will need access to right up front.
- It is a good idea to pick up pallets to place your furniture on, raising your items about 3-5 inches off the ground to reduce moisture or at least placing a protective waterproof cover such as a tarp over the concrete floor.
- Always cover your mattresses and fabric furniture with plastic wrap and stack on their side. It is also a good idea to wrap fabric cushions individually and place on top.
- Break down your furniture (couch legs, table legs and leafs) to store on their side giving more room.
- Treat wood surfaces before storing and place blankets over them if storing items on top to prevent scratching.
- A refrigerator or freezer should be thoroughly cleaned and air dried and stored with its door slightly ajar to prevent mold or musty odors from lingering dampness.
- Bicycles and other metal items will rust over time if not protected. To retard rust, rub a few drops of machine oil on metal surfaces.
- When storing lawn or other equipment that has gas or oil in them, read the owner's manual for directions on removing for safe storage.
- Use trash cans to store shovels, rakes, brooms, etc. Stack extra cans inside each other.

Add your own ideas below when you think of them as they are often forgotten when you need them!