

Smart packing tips

Packing essentials

- Thick, sturdy cartons of various sizes. Your local bottle shop or supermarket should be able to supply smaller strong boxes for small or heavy items.
- Wardrobe cartons for your clothes.
- Bubblewrap, tissue paper, white paper, polystyrene foam.
- Scissors.
- Gardening gloves to help protect your hands when handling heavy items.
- Strong masking tape to secure boxes.
- Permanent marker.
- Consider using plastic storage tubs instead of cardboard boxes. These inexpensive tubs are sturdy, stackable and available in a variety of sizes and, if they have a lid, are waterproof. They can also be useful after the move for storage purposes.

Packing plan

- Firstly, pack items not needed before the move.
- Pack one room at a time.
- Pack a small box of items you'll need for immediate use in your new home. This box should include some toiletries, medicines, toilet paper, soap and towels. Perhaps you could transport this box yourself.
- Pack another box with kitchen essentials for the moving day such as a kettle, cutlery, mugs, tea, coffee and snacks.
- Pack a carton containing valuable papers and personal items, eg jewellery. Consider transporting this carton yourself.
- Essential items requiring immediate access after your move should be the last boxes loaded into the removal van.
- Set aside bed linens, towels to be used on the first night so beds can be made up as soon as possible on moving day.

Packing tips

- Make a list of all cartons and their contents as they are packed and sealed. It is a good idea to number the boxes and list contents on a separate sheet of paper for security purposes.
- Use a permanent marker to mark the box number and the room into which they should be placed. Write the box number on the top and sides. Your list should show the contents.
- Pack heavier or fragile items in small cartons. Mark these cartons as 'heavy' or 'fragile'.
- Ensure that cartons are securely sealed.
- Place pillows, blankets and towels at the base of boxes packed with fragile items.
- Ensure that computer, printer, scanner and fax machine are packed securely.
- Pack a first aid carton and keep it handy whilst packing and moving. Include important medications, band aids, antiseptic creams etc.
- Disassemble outdoor items, eg cubby house and swings, and place all bolts, brackets and screws in a labelled sealed bag and tape on under side of item.
- Disassemble prefabricated furniture, eg computer or sewing desk, and place all bolts, brackets and screws in a labelled sealed bag and tape on under side of item.
- Remove microwave plate and tape the door shut.
- Wrap and pack each item individually.
- Pack lighter items in large cartons and heavier items in small cartons.
- If not using a removalist, use old blankets or sheets to cover and protect your furniture whilst transporting.
- Pack sharp tools with plenty of padding taped around them. Mark the carton 'sharp objects' to avoid injury when unpacking.
- Transport perishable food items in a cooler box.
- Pack indoor plants in plastic lined boxes and water lightly.
- Drain lawn mower.