

**Packing Tips**

1. If you buy boxes, or get them second hand, get a variety of sizes. Put heavy items like books in smaller boxes so they don't get too heavy.
2. Get a few heavy-duty laundry bags to pack duvets and other soft items and then stuff them in odd shaped spaces in the moving truck or van.
3. Start packing items you rarely use first. (Refer to Packing Order List.)
4. Pack one or more "Open Me First Boxes" so you have essentials on hand. (Refer to Open Me First Box Packing List.)
5. Create an Inventory List and as you pack each item, write it and the box number on your inventory list.
6. Label boxes on multiple sides with the new room number or color code directing to which new room it should go.
7. When taking apart furniture, tape any screws or keys to the side.
8. Keep valuables and important personal documentation together and bring with you on moving day.
9. Use towels, linens and even kids soft toys and stuffed animals to pad boxes.
10. Use paper plates between china plates to prevent breakage.
11. Fill empty spaces with other items. If you're moving a washer or dryer, you could store your pillows inside them.
12. Pack clothes on hangers and hang them immediately in the new closets.
13. Use garbage bags with drawstrings to group together clothes that are still on hangers to ease moving to the new closets.
14. Keep similar items together in boxes. Do not just toss various items into boxes, as that will make unpacking difficult.
15. Have signposts ready for the rooms in the new house that correspond to the colors/codes of the labels on your boxes.
16. Get your children involved and excited to move. Read books about moving and have them help pack their toys.
17. Clean as you pack. Work on the deep cleaning – such as the oven and fridge early on so that you just have to vacuum once everything is moved out.
18. Spread your packing over a few weeks and do a little each day.