

## **PACKING TIPS**

Before following the packing tips below, make sure that you are aware of the **insurance impact**: if you pack yourself, you'll have to prove that any damage to your property was caused by the moving company. This is tricky to do unless the box itself is severely damaged. If you are concerned about the safety of your property, you may opt to have the moving company pack which will be an additional charge.

- **Don't reuse boxes** that are starting to wear or have been used many times. Keep in mind that the box you pack could easily end up on the bottom of a large stack.
- **Pack all boxes to capacity.** Boxes that are under filled are more likely to be crushed but be careful not to overfill them as they can tear or fall apart.
- **Boxes should weigh about 25-30 lbs each.** It's important to be consistent when packing. When boxes weigh much more or less than people expect, accidents happen.
- **Label all boxes** as soon as you're done packing them (e.g. "Bathroom", "Bedroom", "Kitchen"). When labeling, write the room label on multiple sides, in addition **draw an arrow** on the box to indicate which side of the box is the top. This will save you a lot of time when unpacking (or trying to find that one item that you need) as well as helping to ensure the safety of your property.
- **Don't be afraid to start early!** If you're moving in the summer, it's a good idea to pack your winter clothes two months before your move date.
- **Wrap all glassware**, china, and breakables **individually** in towels or packing material. If you're trying to save money, wrap each item in newspaper! Don't be tempted to cram items together--they'll "clink" and break.
- **Don't pack it if you don't need it!** If you know you don't need something in a new location, sell it at a garage sale before you move. Too many people pack and ship items that they later realize they don't need--what a waste of time and money!
- **Buy or rent garment boxes.** Most moving companies rent or sell garment boxes, you can also get the boxes at most local storage facilities or truck rental companies. These boxes are like portable closets--you can ship clothing on its hanger.
- **NEVER PACK** explosives, combustibles (gasoline or propane), food of any kind or liquids. These could cause damage to the other items and will void your insurance.
- **Wine boxes** have individual dividers which help to protect your glasses. You can find these boxes for **FREE** at almost any grocery or liquor store.
- **Use space bags** for pillows and blankets and off season clothes, they shrink down to practically nothing.
- **Load the items in the order** you want them to come out in. Have friends and movers assist you in putting all large pieces and furniture in its place before they leave. Use the bottom of the closet in the appropriate room to put boxes in so the house will begin clean.
- **Set up the kitchen first**, this will lessen the amount of times you have to order out which will ultimately save you money.
- **Create a floor plan** and post it on the door of each room, use the floor plan to show how each room should be set up. This will free you to do other things than to direct traffic.