

PACKING GUIDE



ISAAC'S
Moving and Storage



The Isaac's Packing Guide...

The process of moving house can seem a rather daunting task, but with a little planning and Isaac's trusty movers on your side it can all run remarkably smoothly. You may decide to ask the movers to pack for you, in which case you need to make sure that everything is organized room-by-room and anything you plan to carry with you is clearly separated. If you are the one doing the packing, then here's our guide on how to pack so that when it comes to unpacking again you'll know that everything has arrived safely.

Our three top tips for packing are:

First and most importantly, start early. The more time you allow yourself to pack and mull over the various to-do lists the less likely it is that you'll find yourself pulling an all-nighter or forgetting to tell Aunt Olivia that you've moved.

Secondly, whatever the season, spring clean. Sort through all your belongings and paperwork and decide what to keep. Get the kids involved too by having them sort out the toys they no longer play with and the clothes that don't fit. You can sell books at a yard sale, donate the children's Lego to charity and give your sister that vase she really likes but you never use.

Thirdly, there is a box for everything, and everything should be in its box. Order the proper supplies and use a liberal amount of packing paper at every opportunity. Your possessions will be safer and easier to store and handle if they are in sturdy, well-padded boxes. Isaac's is able to provide you with small, medium and large boxes; dish or china boxes; wardrobe boxes; lamp boxes; boxes for legal and letter size files; and picture boxes.

You will also want some combination of packing paper, bubble wrap and packing peanuts.

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And now, the real fun of it, the packing itself...

Start with those items you don't use regularly, such as winter clothes in summer, barbecue tongs in winter, decorative bowls, collections of books and old files from work.

Pack room by room. Start in a spare bedroom or study and pack all its contents away first. When the room is ready, use it to store packed boxes so they are out of the way and any disorder is very much contained. Keep the contents of each room together and clearly label or color coordinate the boxes so they are easily identifiable at the other end.

Write a list of contents on the top and side of each box. The more detailed the description, the easier it will be to find the important things later.

If you are packing or taking advantage of Isaac's packing service, you need to keep aside a box of essentials which will keep you going in your last days in the old house through to the first ones in the new house. Everyone will need their own travel bag containing changes of clothes, towels, toiletries, prescription drugs, and a few other personal items.

You will also want to put together a supply box with things you will want to hand when you get to the new house: bed linen, toilet roll, band-aids, a set of flatware for each of you, a few plates and cups, and an all-purpose cooking pot. If you rely on caffeinated beverages you might want to pack the coffeemaker in here at the last minute. You may also need to take a tool kit with you so you can reassemble furniture without having to look through a dozen boxes first. If possible, you will want to take this box with you, or make sure it is one of the first boxes unpacked at the other end.

Some useful tips:

- Remember that you can always use cushions, pillows, towels and bedding to pad out boxes. Alternatively put them in clear plastic bags (you don't want them confused with garbage) and use them to protect fragile items in the truck.



- Make sure all boxes can close properly and be sealed so the tops are flat. If you over-pack a box, you risk damage to the contents.
- Do not use standard garbage bags! They rip and tear too easily. If you're going to pack linens and clothing in garbage bags, purchase the thicker, heavy ones to ensure they don't burst during the move. Or double up. Some moving companies don't like you using garbage bags, so do so minimally. The great thing about garbage bags full of clothing is that they can be squished into nooks and holes that exist on the truck, thereby protecting furniture and using less space. Just limit how many you use.



Packing China:

Pad the bottom of the box with packing paper. Wrap each piece in bubble wrap. Gently layer the china and pad in between with crumpled paper. Top off with another layer of packing paper and check that the contents are secure and do not rattle. Label the box as 'Fragile' and indicate 'This Side Up' on the appropriate side.

Packing Pictures:

Use a picture box or cover both sides with cardboard. Place packing paper along the sides and edges of the picture to prevent it moving around inside the box. You can fit up to 3 or 4 pictures in one box, making sure to place packing paper or bubble wrap between pictures.

Packing Books:

To pack books you should use small book boxes. You may want to reinforce the bottom of the box with some extra cardboard. Pack them flat or with the spine resting on the bottom of the box. Fill in any gaps with packing paper or packing peanuts. Particularly precious hardback books or albums can be individually wrapped in paper or packed with a thin sheet of cardboard to either side.

Packing Equipment and electronics:

If you are the type of person that holds onto the packing of all your electronics and appliances, then this part will be very easy for you. Simply replace them in their packaging. ...you will want to carefully wrap the equipment in bubble wrap and secure in place with packing peanuts. As you disconnect the cables, color code them to match the ports they came from, so reassembly will be easier. Label all of these boxes "FRAGILE"





- Get everyone involved by making a task list, then dividing out the jobs that each person can do. Organizing your household will not only save you time and energy, but will make your whole family feel like part of this adventure.

You also want to carry valuables, like jewelry, and important documents, like your passport or insurance certificates with you, so set them aside early on.

When you are packing, don't overfill large boxes with heavy objects. Place a few heavy items at the bottom and then fill up with lighter ones so the box is still easy to lift.

Do not include flammable or hazardous materials in your packing. This can include paint, varnish, aerosol cans, ammunition and some cleaning materials. If you are uncertain on what is permitted, check with your mover.

Different household items may need to be packed in different ways, and I'm going to give you a quick demonstration of how Isaac's recommend you pack.

Packing Clothing:

Wardrobe boxes are available for hanging clothes, linens and drapes. If you only have medium sized boxes and don't mind the odd wrinkle, you can fold them flat in the box. Shoes can be stored at the bottom, just be careful not to make it too heavy.

Packing tools and sharp and heavy objects:

Where possible, small tools should be stored in a DIY-kit or a single well-padded box. You can also place sharp objects in an old tin or wrap carefully in rags and packing. Any boxes containing sharp or dangerous objects should be clearly marked to alert the movers.

Pots and pans can be stacked, one inside the other, with crumpled paper or bubble wrap between each layer.

Make sure drawers on cupboards and dressers are securely closed, so that they don't fly open in transit.



Unpacking:

When all the packing is done, the last thing you may want to be thinking about is the unpacking. But that's the far simpler part, and while it's not quite the same as presents on Christmas morning, it seems that bit more satisfying. Good unpacking is almost as important as good packing, and it's also important to be organized. Work through the unpacking room by room, and since all your boxes are of course well-labeled it should be a breeze. It's a good idea to focus on the kitchen and bathroom first, as that you can eat and freshen up. Next you can tackle the living room and bedrooms. Remember that you don't have to do it all in one go, and don't put too much pressure on yourself to get it done instantly.

We hope that this advice has been helpful, and of course you can contact Isaac's with questions about your packing or to order supplies. At Isaac's we try to make the moving process as smooth as possible and we wish you the best of luck with your move.




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