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MONEY SAVING Packing Tips & Tricks

As moving pros we have a lot of experience and we are sharing tips and tricks that will take a lot of the stress out of packing and make your moving day so much easier and possibly save your tons of MONEY by making things more organized and efficient.

***** Manly Moving is a full-service moving company. Packing up a house is a big job. Contact us to get a hassle-free estimate to pack up your house. Your professional and stress-free move is just a phone call away*****

GENERAL TIPS

- Use clear packing tape to close up your boxes - Clear tape is the most durable long term. Paper tape is affected by moisture and age, and brown poly tape is for taping blankets to furniture.
- Clearly label all sides of the box - Allows the mover to know where it goes, even when a bunch of boxes are stacked up on a dolly.
- Label the contents of the box on its top - General labels describing the contents of the box. Don't get too detailed on every box or you will burn out early.
- Cross out old labels - Avoid confusion and boxes getting placed in the wrong rooms
- Don't overload old moving boxes - Heavy boxes are generally placed on the bottom of a stack, but if they are heavy and old, they are likely to collapse under a load.
- Use moving boxes a max of 2 times - Over 2 times of use, the labels start getting confusing and they start to rip or collapse.
- Label boxes correctly - Label boxes if possible by the rooms they go into at your new house and not by the rooms they came out of.
- Label fragile boxes - Label with fragile on each side of the box. If the box is bulging due to fragile items in the box, then label it with TOP so it is placed on top of a load.

- Label liquid boxes - Liquid boxes must have an arrow on every side pointing up and be marked on each side with LIQ for liquids.
- Stick tape correctly - Tape needs to be pressed down firmly, the tape should wrap around the edges of the box by 4+ inches, and use more strips for heavier boxes.
- Create a bumper in the bottom of fragile boxes - Use bubble wrap in the bottom or crumpled up packing paper to create a cushion bumper in the bottom of the box
- Double Up - Use Foam peanuts with bubble wrap for ultra fragile items
- Fragile item boxes - They should be preferably packed in small boxes and/or double corrugated boxes
- Consolidate Fragile & Liquid Items - These types of boxes need to be loaded in the moving trucks strategically. If too many boxes have these labels then we run out of strategic places to put them and then it is the same as none of them having those labels.
- Load all boxes tight - If items can move in the box then items can break in the box.
- Pack your emergency box - This is a box contains emergency items like medicine, checkbook, spare keys, wet wipes, and etc
- Lamps need the shades and bulbs removed and packed into boxes - Lamp Shades break easily and should be packed in boxes as often as possible.
- Floor lamps base secured - Floor lamps with cement weights in the bottom, need to be taped or stretch wrapped in place so they don't fall out and break.
- Label items not to be moved - Use masking tape to mark furniture, boxes, and appliances that don't go. This tape comes off easily and won't leave a residue or take the varnish off.

Kitchen

- Stack plates Vertically - Glass is strongest vertically
- Protect glass plates - Put foam plates between glass or wrap in packing paper
- Tilt and shake test with glassware - If you tilt it and then gently shake the box you shouldn't hear any glass on glass noise.
- Put paper in cups - Positive pressure inside a wine glass for example will help make it less prone to breaking.
- Stretch wrap silverware tray - This cool trick saves you time by keeping everything on your silverware tray from shifting. This also works well with knife holders.
- Pack liquids together- Gag all liquids as a precaution so that you don't have chemicals leaking out of boxes.
- Watch the weight of boxes when packing up pots and pans - Fill boxes partially with these types of items and then fill the top part of the box with light items so the box doesn't get too heavy.
- Bag all spices - Avoid the cleanup of spices dumping everywhere. Bags sets of spices together to prevent big messes.
- Label food boxes with food on it so it can be used up if possible - Try to use up as much food as you can so you don't spend time and money moving it.
- Bag up refrigerator food - This will help you quickly get packed into a cooler before leaving the house.
- Load canned goods - Pack them in small boxes so they don't get too heavy.

Bathrooms

- Soaps and chemicals - Put all soap and chemicals in bags and into a liquids box

Bedrooms

- Protect your mattress - Used fitted sheets reversed on each side before bagging the mattress. This way if the bag rips or comes open then your mattress stays clean.
- Tape the mattress bag - Tightly tape the mattress bag so it can be moved.
- Ask movers about leaving clothes in dresser drawers - Some moving companies can save you time and money by moving your furniture with drawers packed.
- Bag up socks and small things - If a dresser or furniture item is tipped, you want smaller items bagged in drawers so they don't fall out if the dresser is tipped.
- Stretch wrap all furniture with drawers - This protects your furniture and walls/doorways.
- Tape bed frames together - Bed frames can be a pain to move and pack. If you tape them together with the sticky side out or stretch wrap them together with a hand roll, it will hold them together and keep stuff safer in the truck.
- Trash bag clothes on hangers or fold them with hangers on them and pack them into boxes that way - This helps reduce ironing clothes and helps you quickly unpack clothing boxes.
- Hardware from beds and dressers should be taped to the item they came off or bagged and taped inside a furniture item from that room - Save yourself the stress of losing hardware to furniture.

Kids Rooms

- Cribs almost never will fit through a door - You will need to disassemble them.
- Bunk bed disassembly - This can be time consuming and so take care of that prior to moving day.
- Use wardrobe boxes for kids toys - Kids toys are usually lightweight and so getting them into a wardrobe box will save lots of trips in and out of the house with boxes.
- Use trash bags to pack up stuffed animals and pillows - For a secure truck load, things need to be tight and having trash bags with soft items is perfect for filling gaps and tightening a load.

Office Rooms

- Protect the glass on scanners - Be sure to put a piece of thin foam or packing paper and tape the scanner lid down to protect the glass when moving.
- Take pictures of the cord setup - Getting things hooked up correctly after disconnecting everything can be challenging. Taking pictures of the back of electronics to see what was plugged in where, can help.
- Unhook Desks - "L" Shaped desks and desks with glass tops need to be disassembled before moving. Taking these things apart before moving day can be a time saver.
- Box up everything and pay attention to the weight of boxes - Office stuff can get really heavy and so use small boxes and watch the weight of boxes as you pack.
- Monitors should be boxed if possible - Box any electronics whenever possible to help ensure they don't get broken.

Living Rooms

- Take a picture of cord hookups before unplugging electronics - Usually TV's have a lot of cords going to them from dvd players, sound bars, satellite dishes, and etc. Help yourself out by taking pictures.
- Take backs off sofa chairs, recliners, and sectional couches - Getting these items through doorways can be tricky and tight. Often walls can get scratched by these items. Taking legs off of sofas can help these items get moved out faster and safer.
- Separate any sections of a sectional - Many sectionals aren't meant to be moved together. Separating the sections will help the sectional for sustaining damage to the connecting hardware.
- Use bags to cover couch cushions to keep them clean - No one wants to clean a couch and this is something you will never regret doing.
- Stretch wrap couches and leave the middle open - If it is not going into storage, don't seal off the top of the couch so it can be filled in so the load can be packed tighter.

Garages/ Shops

- Clean Stuff off so you don't bring spiders and dirt to your new place - This can be done when you pull things away from walls and stage everything in the middle of the garage.
- Use wardrobe boxes to pack yard tools and other taller garage items - These boxes are usually very durable and they are taller. They will make moving a lot easier.
- Use smaller boxes to pack heavier items so the boxes don't get too heavy - Garage tools and items can get really heavy and so watch the weight of your boxes.
- Stretch wrap tools and items with moving parts together - This helps furniture from getting rub damage on it from a loose rake or shovel.
- Use up or donate to neighbors any flammable fuels - Gas cans, lawn mowers, and other equipment must be emptied of fuel before it can be moved. Not only can it be dangerous to move items like this in a moving truck, but they also can make everything in the moving truck smell like fuel.
- Mark items that need to stay with the house like storage shelves, house paint and supplies for that house. - Garages usually have stuff that needs to stay with the house. Keep these items separate and together so they don't get packed in the truck.
- If it doesn't fit in a box, don't stress. Sometimes in garages you run into lots of oddly shaped items. If you rent plenty of blankets with your moving truck then you can find a way to get these items in.

Laundry Rooms

- Know the plug for your dryer at your new house - Knowing ahead of time if your dryer needs a 4-prong or 3 prong plug will save you added stress on moving day.
- Put in front load washer stabilizer bolts - If you have these, you can put them in to reduce the risk of damage to your front load washer.
- Leave out a bucket so you can drain the washer hoses - Run through a spin cycle before draining it and then do your best to drain the water out and into a bucket.
- Check after unhooking the washer and dryer for water and gas line leaks - A slow leak can cause lots of problems. You can use soapy water to check for gas line leaks.
- Remove all hoses and put them into the washer - Doing this will help you quickly find and hook up your washer and dryer.

- Tape up to the back any hoses or cords you could not remove - If the hoses aren't taped up it can be more difficult to move and a hose could drop and drain out water onto your floor.

Fridges & Freezers

- Defrost the freezer - Be sure to wipe out the water inside the fridge/freezer and check if it has a defrost drain pan that needs to be dried out.
- Remove handles and doors - Some fridges are extra deep or wide and if it came into the house without handles or doors, then be sure to take those off before moving day if possible to save time on moving day.
- Check for leaks after you detach the water line - Tape the water line to the back of the appliance to make it easier to move and check for leaks so you don't end up with a ruined floor.

Couches

- Stretch Wrap couches - This helps to keep them clean and helps hold them tight in the truck.
- Remove cushions and place in plastic bags to keep them clean and use them to fill gaps in the truck
- Leather couches need to be blanketed and then stretch wrapped - Leather can sweat in humid and hot climates. Blanketing before stretch wrapping will prevent sweat damage to your leather.
- Tie down hide-a-beds - Use rope to tie hide-a-beds to the frame so they don't come out when moving them.
- Take off the backs of recliners, couches, and chairs if they have removable backs - This protects your couch/chair as well as the doorways and hallways it needs to squeeze through.

TVs & Electronics

- Take pictures of the cords and what plugged in where - Already discussed above
- Wrap electronics in towels before putting them in boxes - This will help keep dust and moisture out of them.
- Use anti static covers if you can to cover your tvs and electronics
- Use a sheet of cardboard and moving pads to protect the screen - TVs and monitors with LED or LCD screens can get pressure damage to pixels. Use cardboard and pads to protect their screens from pressure and other damage.
- Store TVs against the sidewall in a moving truck or between mattresses - These are the safest places to store a TV in a moving truck.
- Old Plasma TVs should be stood up vertically - The old plasmas should never be transported anyway but on their feet so the colors don't run.
- Use the boxes the electronics came in if that is an option - These are going to be the safest way to transport them.
- Take off the bulky bases of the TVs when possible so they can better fit in the truck - The base types can vary a lot and some can stay on when moved and others will not work great to be packed in a truck with the base on.

Storing in Storage

- Stretch Wrap without gaps - Use a high quality stretch wrap that you can pull tight to keep dust, mice, and bugs out.
- Set mice poison or traps - Most storage places will set traps, but if your unit doesn't have this, then put one in just in case.
- Tape mattress covers closed - Seal the mattress covers and bring tape to patch rips that may happen when moving the mattress. This will keep your mattress protected.
- Use a tarp or pallets on the floor to prevent your stuff from getting wet - Some climates the cement floors will sweat with temperature changes if the units are not climate controlled.
- Watch what you put near the door of a storage unit - Storage units most of the time have a pull down door and the door seals wear out or water seeps in.
- Remember the 4 year rule - Boxes will begin to break down in 4 years. If the climate is very humid this happens even sooner. Stack boxes and totes are very weight conscious if the items are going to be in storage for a long time.
- Totes get soft in hot weather and brittle in cold weather - Use quality totes and pay attention to the weight of your stacks or totes.
- Avoid storing for a year or longer in storage units that are near fields - Fields will up your chances of having mice get into and ruin your stuff. Climate controlled units are less susceptible to rodents and bugs.
- Paper box tape and duct tape is not the best option for boxes going into storage - Both tapes will begin to just fall off your boxes over time and that can cause damage and struggle when you go to move the items again. Use a poly box tape whenever possible.
- Unframed mirrors or glass chips very easily on cement - Have cardboard or something else to set them on if they are not wrapped.
- Dust is inevitable - No matter how well you cover things and you wrap things, time will always be your enemy with dust and it will eventually cover everything.
- Use a tarp as a floor cover - Roll it up at the door to protect water from getting items wet through the door.
- Storage units can be stacked differently than trucks - Since storage units don't move you don't have to worry about rub damage, but the weight of stacks and other customers pushing against walls can shift things so be aware of how you stack your unit.

Manly Moving is here to help you with every aspect of your move. We are your trusted professionals. Let us know if you have any questions or concerns about your move and we will do our best to help you. Check out our website for more helpful tools and tips. www.manlymoving.com

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