Affordable Self Storage

www.affordablestorageri.com

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Packing and Storage Tips

- Make a list of all the packing supplies you will need: Boxes, tape, bubble wrap, marking pens, rope and pallets.

- Take a list of what you are planning on storing so that we can help you determine the correct size for your needs.

- Schedule your mover 30-45 days in advance.

- If you are using a moving company, find out what size truck they will be using. This will be helpful to ensure that your unit will be accessible to that truck. Most moving companies charge more the farther they have to carry your things.

- Purchase the insurance. If your belongings are worth storing, they are worth insuring.

- Use pallets, 2 x 4's, or plywood, to keep your items off the floor of the unit.

- Utilize all the space in your unit. Make a plan as to how you are going to arrange your items. A good plan will save you the time of having to rearrange your unit. Leave an aisle in the center of your unit so that you have a walk way to the back of the unit.

- Use freestanding shelves to help organize your unit.

- Label the boxes on all six sides and keep a list for easy reference. This will save you time if you have to look for something in particular. When packing boxes fill them without making them too heavy to lift.

- Always put the heavier boxes on the bottom and the lighter ones on top. This will prevent boxes from being crushed. Keep boxes off the floor.

- Be sure to store frequently used items at the front of the unit to avoid having to search for them.

- To protect your items cover them with moving pads, sheets, or light blankets.

- Be sure to check your unit once a month.

- Disassemble items such as tables, bed frames, etc. to save space. Wrap and label all pieces for an easier time when you have to reassemble them. Put all hardware in bags and mark the bags accordingly.

- When you disassemble electronics, such as computers, stereos or things that have numerous cords, place small colored stickers on the cord and the same color sticker where the cord goes. This will save you the hassle of trying to figure out what goes where when it comes time to reassemble your electronics. If possible, use the original boxes to store your electronics and other items.

- Make sure that all appliances are clean and dry before storing them. Leave appliances slightly ajar to prevent mildew.

- If it is possible, store couches on end. Stack chairs seat to seat. Use the inside of appliances and drawers to store smaller items. When stacking furniture use paper pads in between the items to avoid scratching.

- Store mirrors and paintings on end, not flat.

- To prevent rusting, rub a small amount of machine oil on metal tools, bicycles, and equipment. Drain and clean all fluids/debris from all equipment before you store them.

- When wrapping collectibles or anything breakable, tape it after you wrap it. This should avoid mistaking them for excess paper to fill the box. Use bubble wrap or unprinted paper to wrap breakables. Group similar items together and mark the boxes accordingly.

- Clothing and draperies should be stored in wardrobe boxes, and/or on hangers to retain their original shapes.

- Rubbermaid type containers are great to store your items. They have tight fitting lids and stack easily. Keep the more valuable items in the rear of the unit. This will prevent others from seeing them when you are in your unit.

- Keep out of season clothes accessible, you may have your belongings in storage longer than anticipated.

- Do not use plastic to cover your belongings. It retains moisture.

- Do not store any food items. This will prevent any unwanted guests.

- Do not assume that your homeowners or renters insurance will cover your belongings while in storage. Purchase the insurance.

- Do not give out your password, gate code, or any information to any one that is not listed as having "Access".

- Do not use printed newspaper. The ink may smudge and get on your items.

- Do not store any toxics or flammable substances, such as paint, oil or gasoline.