



# PACKING TIPS FROM THE PROS

LAUREN MANG, LET ME ORGANIZE IT LLC

## #1 - GET ORGANIZED BEFORE YOU MOVE

Review and downsize 4 to 6 months before you know you will be moving. It takes longer than you think.

## #2 - INVEST IN GOOD MOVING SUPPLIES

Quality and size of boxes and packing paper matters! I like UHaul for their quality and variety of sizes.

## #3 - CREATE A (BOX) TABLE

Save your back, use a medium or large box to create a table to work on, if a table or counter is not readily available.

## #4 - USE MORE BOOK, SMALL AND MEDIUM BOXES

Again, your back will thank you - as will the movers! Large and extra large boxes should be reserved for bulky items like bedding.

## #5 - PACK IN LAYERS

For example: heavy books at the bottom, a layer of paper, then stuffed animals or sheets/towels on top.

## #6 - PROTECT YOUR ITEMS

Place a layer of paper at the bottom of the box before starting to fill it, and more at the top. This may seem wasteful but will protect your items from dust/debris and even a little water.

## #7 - MARK THE PAPER

If it's something sharp write "SHARP" on the paper. If it's something small that looks like crush, mark it with an X to indicate there's something inside.

## #8 - USE SAUSAGE ROLLS

Create and use sausage rolls with packing paper, in the bottom and top of boxes with extremely fragile items for extra padding.

## #9 - PACKING DISHES

Pack your dishes upright, like files in a drawer, not laying down. Same goes with barware - pack up and down, not lying on the side.

## #10 - LABEL YOUR BOXES

Label your boxes on THREE sides - yup, three! Label on the top, one side, and on the front. You never know how they will be stacked so you can see the writing on at least one side.



# UNPACKING TIPS FROM THE PROS

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## #1 - HOW TO CARRY A BOX

Believe it or not, carrying a heavy box is best done behind your back! No joke, this is how the movers do it. Although, a dolly is helpful!

## #2 - WHAT TO UNPACK FIRST

Bedding, towels and toiletries so you can get a good night's sleep. Also, basics you'll need in the kitchen the next morning.

## #3 - PROTECT YOUR FLOORS

Take some of the packing paper and line your floor before placing boxes on the floor. Avoid dragging heavy boxes across the floor - this can scratch your hardwood!

## #4 - HOW TO OPEN A BOX

Yes, there is a correct way to protect your belongings. First, slice the sides of the box. Then lift the still taped flaps up like a tent, and cut down the center. This way you won't slice into your clothes or books.

## #5 - FLATTEN ALL PAPER

Yes, it's time consuming, but this is the key to making sure nothing gets thrown out accidentally. This tip has saved me a number of times!

## #6 - CREATE CRUSH BOXES

Crush is what movers call the packing paper. Once it's flattened you can fold (in half, then in half again) and place into medium boxes. Have some fun and stomp it down!

## #7 - COVER YOUR COUNTERS

Similar to protecting your floors, protect your counters by placing paper down before you unpack items onto them.

## #8 - UNPACK OVER THE BOX

This has saved my hide several times - always unpack over the box. If the item slips from your hands, it won't have far to fall (compared to falling to the floor) and is less likely to break.

## #9 - UNPACK/CATEGORIZE FIRST THEN FINESSE LATER

Unpack as much as you can into categories on your counters. Once full, assign a home based on the size of the category. You'll likely need to edit/finesse once everything is unpacked.

## #10 - MAKE A LIST

Have a notepad/pen or digital list handy to make note of things in the new home that need fixing/attention or organizing products you want to purchase.