



## Checklist - How to pack!

It is often underestimated just how long it takes to pack boxes properly. If you're going to do it yourself, the job will be easier if you follow the advice below:

### 1. Start early

Quite a few boxes will be required, depending on the size and scale of all the household items. So don't wait until the last minute to get started but start instead well before the actual relocation date.

### 2. In the right order

Start with the less important things. So all the things that you don't need every day, such as books, the prized LP collection, CDs etc... can be packed first.

### 3. Think about the labels

The boxes should be labeled so they can be put straight into the right room in the new house. There are a number of ways of doing this, and of combining the ideas too. For example, the boxes can be continuously numbered and their contents noted on a separate list. You can also mark the box with the name of the room in which it should end up (e.g. bathroom, kitchen, bedroom). It is important that the boxes are marked on the front - not the top - because they will be stacked and the lid of the box will not be visible.

### 4. Stick to the right amount

Make sure not to overload the box when packing, otherwise the carrying straps could break. In our experience, the limit is maximum 20 kg (45 lbs). A good guideline is to test it yourself: if the box is too heavy for you then it probably is for someone else!



## 5. Keep personal things separate

Valuables, keys, documents and passports are best packed in a separate bag that you keep with you at all times and transport yourself. For the first night in your new home, apart from things like bed linen, cosmetic items and medication, you will also need to have some things readily reachable, like the charger for your mobile 'phone as well as a few fresh towels and some fresh clothes.

## 6. Protect fragile items

Pack heavy items at the bottom of boxes and the lighter things near the top. Put a few layers of small bubble-wrap around things like glass picture frames, mirrors or similar and place them vertically in the boxes on some more bubble-wrap. The same applies to (porcelain) plates. Glasses must also be well packed with their open end downward. Old newspapers and crumpled sheets of junk mail can be used to fill the gaps, so start collecting them early! Alternatively you can use tea towels, bath towels, cushions or blankets. Just wiggle the box a little - if everything still moves, you need more packing! The TV, the hi-fi system and computers or laptops are ideally transported in their original boxes, if you still have them.

## 7. Don't forget the drawers

The drawers of bureaus, cabinets, sideboards and bedside tables must be emptied and the contents packed in a labeled transport box. If these include small items, these should be carefully put into small bags (small freezer bags for example), and marked so that they are not lost when the boxes are emptied.

**An important tip:** Pay attention to the quality of the transport boxes. They can fold if they are too thin and might damage their contents. Fruit boxes from the supermarket are wonderful for transporting bananas, apples or oranges, but wholly unsuitable for removals.