

ESSENTIAL PACKING SUPPLIES

BOXES

They can be purchased from your moving company, a packing supply store, or you can get them from a grocery, liquor, or office supply store (as long as boxes have lids and are clean and dry). Wardrobe boxes are the best way to move hanging garments. Measure the number of linear feet of hanging clothing to calculate the quantity you'll need. For the kitchen and dining room, use boxes with preassembled partitions to protect glassware. You can purchase boxes specifically designed to accommodate large items, including glass tabletops, mirrors, artwork, mattresses, and lamps. For books, choose small boxes. Those larger than 12 inches square can be difficult to lift when full.

BOX CUTTERS

To quickly open boxes.

TAPE

Standard packing tape, strapping tape, which is lined with nylon fibers that make it impossible to tear or cut without scissors (for reinforcing the bottoms of heavy boxes), and clear plastic mailing tape (for affixing labels and making them waterproof). Have a tape dispenser for every member of the house.

STRETCH WRAP

For securing doors and drawers on bureaus and cabinets. It sticks to itself, leaving no residue behind.

LABELS

For identifying boxes.

PACKING PAPER

White tissue paper or blank newsprint (avoid newspaper, which can leave ink stains on your valuables). Keep either on hand (both are available from packing-supply companies) to stuff boxes and wrap fragile items before packing them.

BUBBLE WRAP

For padding the bottoms of boxes and wrapping breakable items. It's most economical to buy it in large rolls and cut sheets as you need them.

PERMANENT MARKERS

For labeling boxes.

PENS AND A NOTEPAD

For making notes and writing directions.

BASIC TOOL KIT

For furniture disassembly.

SCISSORS

For cutting Bubble Wrap and tape.

SMALL SEALABLE PLASTIC BAGS

For keeping small items together, such as screws and brackets for shelving. (Look for the variety that include a white stripe for writing labels.)

LARGE TRASH BAGS