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How to Pack Kitchenware

Cups, Glasses, and Stemware:

- Gently stuff cups and glasses with wadded-up packing paper.
- Wrap stems and handles with paper, crumpling slightly to create padding, and then wrap each entire piece individually in paper.
- Pack cups, glasses, and stemware in an upright position, cushioning them well with crumpled paper, rather than laying them down. Label boxes "Fragile, This Side Up."

Dishes:

- All china is best packed in cartons made for that purpose.
- Place one plate in the center of a stack of packing paper; grasp two or three sheets of the paper at one corner, and fold them over the plate, covering it completely. Place another plate on top of the first, and fold papers over from a second corner. Add a third plate, and fold the two remaining corners over it. Turn the stack upside down on the packing paper, and rewrap the entire bundle, sealing it with tape. (Some office-supply stores carry Bubble Wrap bags designed specifically to fit plates; these bags are more convenient, though they can be expensive.) Place the bundle in a small box, standing dishes on edge on a thick layer of crumpled paper or Bubble Wrap. (Dishes are more likely to break when packed flat.) Add additional bundles until the box is packed snugly. Stuff the top and all four sides with more crumpled paper, and tape shut. Label boxes "Fragile, This Side Up."

Small Appliances:

- Pack each separately in a box close to the appliance's dimensions, rather than bunched together in one box.
- Wrap each appliance with packing paper (and Bubble Wrap if it is heavy or fragile), and fit it snugly into its box. Stuff any gaps with crumpled packing paper.

Other Kitchen Items:

- Wrap handles of large objects, such as pitchers, with crumpled packing paper prior to wrapping them individually.
- To wrap a teapot, wind rolled-up paper around the handle, then additional paper around the spout. Place the teapot upside down in the bottom corner of a stack of packing paper, and fold a few sheets over it until you have a bundle; secure it with tape. Wrap a teapot lid separately from the pot, but put both together in the same box.
- Wrap knives individually in paper, then in Bubble Wrap. (Or wrap them in protective sleeves designed specifically for knives.) Label the bundles so you're mindful of the sharp edges when you unpack it.
- Pack pots and pans of graduated sizes in nesting groups; place two or three sheets of packing paper in a large pan, insert a smaller pan, and line that one with more packing paper. Insert an even smaller pan, and so on. Place nested pans upside down on packing paper, and wrap with at least three more sheets of packing paper. Seal the bundle with a piece of tape.
- Very fragile items will be safer if you double-box them. Place the paper-wrapped object in a small box, packed well, then pack this box in a larger one, padded with packing paper or Bubble Wrap on all sides. (This is also an excellent method for mailing delicate items.)
- Pack only nonperishable food items, and make sure they are kept upright.