



40 packing tips for your move

Trusted since 1777
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40 packing tips from pro's

- 1. Packing material:** Make sure everything is ready for the day of loading. If you pack yourself in your own moving boxes, we cannot take out insurance. Have you decided to pack your own boxes for your move? Make sure you use sturdy boxes, which are also easy to stack. Don't make the boxes too heavy. Do not use banana boxes and bags. Plastic stackable crates are also not recommended because our experience shows that they often tear. All this because of stowing in the moving van.

Only when you use De Haan moving boxes, pack them yourself plus leave all boxes open at the top prior to the move, so that our movers can see what is in them and whether it has been properly packed before closing the boxes, are the goods insured in the event of demonstrable transport damage.

Are you still unsure about a fragile and/or valuable item, such as a painting? Let us know in time so that we can look for a solution together. Our special painting boxes provide excellent protection and can be delivered on request together with our packing service so that you can be sure that it arrives undamaged.

- 2. Packing:** What fits in a moving box must be transported in a De Haan moving box. If you receive the packaging material according to the quotation and pack it yourself, you will receive large and small moving boxes, the so-called boxes 1 and 3, from us. Box 1 is intended for linen, kitchen utensils, crockery and other items



that are not too heavy. Box 3 is best suited for books and heavy objects. The boxes indicate how to fold them. If you have received adhesive boxes, you can use the supplied rolls of white tape.

You will also receive wrapping paper for the box plus labels for the side of the box (see the box for the labels) and your furniture. On this you can state the contents of the box and the room for which it is intended. For hanging clothes, if agreed, special wardrobe boxes are taken on the day itself and packed by us.

Place heavier items at the bottom of a box and lighter items on top. If you put the boxes on top of each other, place them with all stickers legible towards you. This way you and the mover can always easily see what is in the boxes.

3. **Box weight:** Do not make the boxes too heavy, but fill them to the brim. We recommend a maximum weight of approx. 20 kg. If there is a space left, you can fill it with the supplied wrapping paper. This prevents collapse when the boxes are stacked. Keep the handles free.
4. **Start early:** Start packing well in advance as soon as you have the moving boxes or storage space. Pack a few boxes every day.
5. **Work from room to room:** Once the big wrapping begins, it's best to work from room to room, not starting on the next room until the previous one is all wrapped up. This also contributes to reducing stress as much as possible.
6. **Packing height:** Make sure you don't have to bend too much when packing. For example, place the moving box on other boxes or a table (do protect them against scratches) so that you have the right height to pack. This saves you back pain.
7. **Labeling of boxes:** By clearly coding moving boxes, it is immediately clear to everyone where the box should go. Also state the destination and not just where the box comes from. This can be done, for example, by means of colors or numbers. Also state whether there are any breakable or fragile items in the box. A coding system provides structure and efficiency and makes moving a lot more practical.



8. **Filling material:** Fill incomplete boxes with filling material so that the contents of the box cannot shift. Make sure you have enough filling material.
9. **Packing materials:** Styrofoam, bubble wrap, moving blankets, towels, sheets and wrapping paper! These materials are the perfect match to protect your belongings during the move.
10. **Take care of your back:** Pack heavy items in smaller boxes as much as possible, so that these boxes can also be lifted. Due to their size, special book moving boxes ensure that you do not overfill them. If a box is a bit heavier than expected, reinforce the closing seam with extra packing tape. If the items do not fit in the book box in terms of size, you can use box type 1 and fill it with, for example, towels, Tupperware or other light items.
11. **Items for the first day:** Make a separate box of supplies for the first day. Toothbrushes, pajamas, a clean set of clothes, iron and most importantly, toilet paper! Also smart: keep the coffee maker at hand. In this way you can at least offer the assisting troops a cup of coffee during the move.
Don't forget: empty the water tank of your iron and coffee machine before moving!
12. **Old and new items:** Never transport items that you want to dispose of together with new items. This way you avoid doing the wrong thing out of stress. Or - even better: get rid of your old belongings well before the move.
13. **Disassembly work:** Know what can and cannot go through the door. Measure large items such as a sofa and see if it fits through the opening. It is very frustrating when you only find out afterwards. Disassemble cabinets and beds as short as possible before your move. This way you will remember how to assemble the furniture later. If the cabinets etc. have been disassembled, do not forget to

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also remove the shelf supports and mounting materials from the shelf parts. For ease of disassembly, code all parts of the cabinets and beds so that all loose parts are also moved to the correct location. Keep the hardware in a safe place so that you do not have to search for these parts after the move. This is best done in a separate box.

Note: Self disassembly and assembly is not insured by De Haan.

- 14. Keep screws together:** If you need to take furniture apart, it's best to put the screws in small bags. Write on the bags the room to which they belong and put them in a separate box (for example the box for the first day). This way you have everything immediately at hand when you reassemble the furniture. Do not stick the bag with screws on the furniture because the white tape is intended for the moving boxes and leaves glue residue on the furniture.
- 15. Outdoor furniture:** Dry the outdoor furniture with a cloth and place it somewhere inside to dry thoroughly beforehand (minimal 3 weeks).
Note: With all outdoor items it is important to put this inside beforehand (especially in case of storage and/or overseas container transport) to prevent mold!
- 16. Keys:** Make sure to keep house keys, car keys, important papers, bank cards, medicines, chargers and other important things separate. You can do this for example in a separate key box, but absolutely not in a normal moving box!



17. **Packing glasses with socks:** You can protect your glassware and vases with socks. You have to bring the socks anyway, so why not use them as wrapping material? For extra protection, we recommend that you also use wrapping paper, towels or bubble wrap between the glasses as padding.
18. **Packing dishes in towels:** One plus one equals two! Why not combine them? Make packages of 2 to 3 plates in a towel and tape them tightly. Then place it vertically in the moving box. This greatly reduces the risk of breaking. On top of that you can place cups, glasses and light items.
19. **Hanging clothes:** Does not need to be packed. We use special wardrobe boxes for this, which are located in the moving truck.
20. **Plants: Please note: taking plants is entirely at your expense and risk, including any subsequent damage.** If plants do come along (which we strongly advise against due to moisture formation), then only as dry as possible. In other words, do not water beforehand. Moisture and vapor due to water is a problem. We do not take care of plants and do not water them.
21. **Cleaning supplies and food:** Keep cleaning supplies last for the final cleaning of your old house. This way you can leave the old house fresh.
Note: Food, liquids, cleaning products and toiletries as part of your moving household goods are not covered by the moving insurance. You can donate non-opened, long-life items, not being alcohol, to the Food Bank using our special charity Food Bank box. In this way you help others and together we prevent waste.

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One plus one equals two! Why not combine them? Make packages of 2 to 3 plates in a towel and tape them tightly.



22. **Seal bottles with foil:** Of course you do not want to find out when you unpack the moving boxes that everything is covered with body lotion or shampoo. That is why it is wise to pack the bottles extra securely. Take a piece of cling film and do it over the opening of the bottle. Then you put on the regular cap. For extra protection against leakage, it is best to place them in a bowl or similar before placing them **upright** in the moving box. Have the mover check the boxes, also in connection with loading and stacking the moving boxes.
Note: Liquids as part of your moving household contents are not covered by the moving insurance.
23. **Jewelry:** Take jewelry with you as hand luggage. Jewelry and securities are not covered by the removal insurance and may not be taken in the removal truck.
24. **Do not tape on furniture:** The supplied rolls of white tape are only for sticking on the boxes. Do not use this on the furniture because this will leave adhesive residue when removed. The white tape is for the white moving boxes that cannot be folded together, or the brown folding boxes that may pop open. In the latter case, only use a little bit of tape (20cm on the flaps).
25. **Wrap cabinets with cling wrap:** You can wrap cabinets with protective cling film. This has two advantages: the doors and drawers do not open during lifting. You can also leave light items, such as underwear, in the drawers. This saves you packing and unpacking work! Never forget to remove the shelves and shelf supports.
26. **Internationally Prohibited Goods:** Under no circumstances pack these items! It is best to keep these hazardous substances separate. Changes in temperature and pressure of flammable or highly flammable liquids and aerosol cans can cause leakage or even explosion. If you pack them up and they injure people, you will be liable and / or they will be confiscated with significant fines or even imprisonment.

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- Firearms, weapons, ammunition, explosives of each type
- Narcotics and related substances
- Tobacco / cigarettes
- Obscene literature, pornographic material
- Animal articles and Flora & Fauna objects such as ivory, horns, shells, fur
- Precious metals and stones, mineral samples
- Toiletries and cosmetics containing alcohol, pressurized liquids (e.g. but not limited to hairspray, deodorant, aerosol sprays, perfumes, etc.)
- Corrosive substances (e.g., But not limited to cleaning fluids, bleach, acids, household chemicals, drain cleaners, rust removers or instruments containing mercury /contain battery fluid, such as mercury barometers or thermometers)
- Combustible or highly flammable materials (e.g. Lighter liquids, perfume, matches, briquettes, paint, chemicals), including devices with embedded lithium-ion batteries, e.g. E-Bikes, E-Scooter, cell phones, laptops, tablets or Hoover boards
- Human remains of ash

27. Appliances that run on gasoline: If you plan to take appliances that normally run on gasoline, such as lawn mowers and motorcycles, make sure the appliance's tank is completely empty. See point 26! Always transport these items upright. So if the items are small and fit in a box, set upright as well.

Do not forget to disconnect the batteries from devices such as electric saws, etc.

The deep fryer must of course be transported without frying fat in the pan.

28. Lamps: Remove bulb and lampshade. Roll up the cord. Do not use newspaper, but paper towels to wrap the lampshade. Place the lampshade upright in the box. Stick decorative buttons and the like to the inside of the box where the lampshade is placed.



Note: For a chandelier we strongly recommend that we have a separate measuring crate made by us at an additional cost so that it can be transported correctly and without damage. Moving the chandelier is not insured without a crate.

29. **Medicines:** Take medicines with you in your hand luggage, they are not allowed in the moving truck.
30. **Mirrors and paintings:** Carefully wrap small mirrors, (photo) frames, paintings and other fragile items with wrapping paper or bubble wrap. Then place them on their side in heavy duty, sturdy boxes. You can simply leave large paintings, glass plates, radio, television, etc. in their place. If the size allows, lamps can be packed in a box. Separate size crates can be produced for very valuable and fragile goods at an additional cost. Valuable and fragile paintings can possibly be packed in special painting boxes we can provide.
31. **PC, video and HiFi:** Should you still have it, pack valuable electronic devices in their original packaging. Otherwise, use boxes and put protective padding in here. First put paper or bubble wrap around the device, wrap it in a blanket or sheet if necessary and place it in the box. Add extra stuffing to the box to secure the computer / VCR.
Note: When packing the printer, take out the ink cartridges first. You take the ink cartridges with you in your hand luggage. This liquid is not covered by the removal insurance and may not be taken in the removal truck.
32. **Cables:** Take pictures of cords with their associated devices before packing them. This way you do not create a jungle of cables that you no longer know to which device they belong. Don't pack the cords all together either. This creates chaos in the box and it is difficult to see which cord belongs to which device. Keep the cord near the appliance it belongs to.
33. **Television:** If possible, use the original packaging. If the original packaging is no longer present, please follow the following instruction: first apply a layer of foam to prevent scratches on the screen. Then a layer of bubble wrap and finish with cardboard. The mover also has special TV boxes for the safe transport of your television.



- 34. Garden tools, lumber etc.:** Clean the garden tools and bundle them where possible. Also make packages and/or bundles from slats / boards and other long objects. Bundling can be done with tie wraps, cable ties or rope. Remove grass, sand and other material from these articles beforehand.
- 35. Freezer and fridge:** Defrost a freezer and refrigerator before departure, at least 24 hours in advance, especially if there is a long distance to cover, which will save a lot of wetness. A refrigerator and freezer contain coolant that is circulated through the system. Always leave the doors slightly open to prevent mold and unpleasant smells. During the move, the liquid can sometimes get into the top of the system. Therefore, once in place, the equipment must be stationary for up to 24 hours before it can be reconnected and used.
Please note: Food, perishable goods, liquids as part of your removal household effects are not covered by the removal insurance.
- 36. Washing machine:** We would like to ask you to empty the washing machine beforehand, this is a special program of the machine. You can then disconnect the inlet hose from the washing machine. In this way, the washing machine is less heavy and you prevent water damage to your floor. Always leave the door slightly open so that the inside can dry properly.
Note: We place your washing machine upright and in the direction of travel of the car. Do NOT use shipping bolts or secure the drum of your washing machine.
- 37. Mattresses:** Pack mattresses in a special mattress cover. This prevents them from becoming dirty during transport, discolouring, absorbing dust, becoming damp (slightly permeable to air) and wear. Clean your mattress before packing by vacuuming it thoroughly with an upholstery brush. Deeper cleaning is preferred for long-term storage, but make sure the mattress has dried thoroughly before packing it in a mattress cover. Never fold a mattress in half. It is attractive to have a mattress on its side storage, but this is not suitable for every mattress. A mattress with innerspring should be stored flat. A cold foam mattress may also be rolled up.



- 38. Protect the rubbers:** By cleaning, drying and then adding talcum powder to the rubbers of the washing machine, refrigerator, dryer, etc., you prevent them from drying out and cracking. However, this only works if you leave the door of that appliance open in storage. You can clean the washing machine thoroughly in advance with a cooking wash program with soda or HG washing machine cleaner. Many washing machines have a filter at the bottom, make sure it is empty and dry. Also clean the detergent compartment thoroughly and let it dry. Upright transport is the advice for all white goods appliances. Use a white goods bag to make lifting easier.
- 39. Clocks:** Remove or tighten the pendulum from large clocks. It is better to have large, longcase clocks packed by an expert.
- 40. Returns:** Unless otherwise agreed, we would like to receive notification as soon as possible after the move that the empty boxes can be picked up. Once you have collected the boxes, ***if stated in our quotation***, this is included in the removal price. Do you want to treat the boxes with the necessary care and keep them dry and clean? After the boxes have been emptied, they must be returned to the folded state. Please collect plastic separately in a bag. The same please for paper. Both are recycled separately by us. If we have not received notification from you within one month of the move that the boxes can be collected, we will charge the boxes. If the boxes are included in the removal price, this does not apply.

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Clean your mattress before packing by vacuuming it thoroughly with an upholstery brush.



Why did De Haan develop these packing tips for moving?

Because we realize that at the end we move people, not just properties. We experience daily that an (international) move is one of the most important and stressful events in a human life. We offer help with this through our share knowledge and experience. A smooth move, less stress, lower costs and a boundless easy removal of your valuables. So that you quickly feel at home again. That is our ambition!

About De Haan

De Haan was founded in 1777. The organization provides removal services worldwide for more than 500,000 customers over the years. De Haan is part of FIDI and has a worldwide network of over 1,300 partners. The organization is certified according to the highest quality certificates, such as ISO 9001, ISO 27001, ISO 14001, AEO and FAIM. By mid-2020, De Haan has approx. 80 employees.



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