

Step by Step: A room-by-room packing checklist

By Erin K. Witt

The task of packing for a move can be overwhelming for some homeowners. Years of clutter and a houseful of belongings must be sorted, organized, packaged safely and packed away—and usually in a short period of time. The following checklist can help you systematically work through the packing process, increasing your chances of a smooth move.

Kitchen:

- Empty closets
- Empty cupboards
- Clear shelves
- Pack dishes, glasses, utensils
- Pack electronics (clocks, timers, small appliances)
- Pack canned goods, clean out perishable foods
- Pack window blinds, room décor
- Large items not boxed*—dishwasher, refrigerator, stove

Dining Room:

- Pack light fixtures, table lamps
- Pack window blinds, room décor
- Large items not boxed*—table, chairs, furniture

Bathroom:

- Pack linens, towels
- Pack shower curtain
- Pack drawer contents
- Pack toiletries
- Large items not boxed*—shelving units, hamper

Living Room/Family Room:

- Pack television, DVD/VCR, stereo equipment
- Pack videotapes, DVDs, CDs, etc.
- Pack table lamps, light fixtures
- Pack collectables, books, statues
- Pack wall mounted photographs, paintings, etc.
- Pack window blinds, décor
- Pack telephone, answering machine
- Large items not boxed*—couch, loveseat, chairs, tables, wall unit, floor lamp, bookcases

Master Bedroom:

- ❑ Pack collectables, books, etc.
- ❑ Empty closets
- ❑ Pack clothes
- ❑ Pack pillows, comforter, daily bedding
- ❑ Pack telephone, table lamps
- ❑ *Large items not boxed*—bed, headboard, nightstand, floor lamps, fixtures, dresser, desk, toy chest, chairs

Office/Den:

- ❑ Pack books, papers
- ❑ Pack computer equipment
- ❑ Pack computer accessories
- ❑ Pack office accessories, desk papers, files, etc.
- ❑ Pack telephone, answering machine
- ❑ *Large items not boxed*—desk, chair, filing cabinets, bookcases, floor lamp

Garage:

- ❑ Pack tools
- ❑ Pack garden tools
- ❑ Pack automotive supplies

Large items not boxed—workbench, toolboxes, lawnmower, sports equipment