



# How to protect your belongings for shipping overseas

Nothing takes the shine off relocating to a new country as quickly as finding one or more of your valuable items was damaged during the journey. But accidents do happen and once your goods are loaded, you lose control over what happens during the

transportation process. The good news is that there is still plenty you can do before you set off to protect your belongings and make sure that your favourite painting or expensive musical instrument arrives at your destination safe and sound.



# 1. Use a trusted moving company

It seems obvious but be sure to check the track record of various moving companies before you sign a contract. Talk to friends that have been through the same experience, check online reviews, and look for a moving company that has specific experience

coordinating and executing international relocations. Perhaps your employer or colleagues-to-be in your new location can help with a recommendation. Get at least three estimates and go with the one you feel you trust most.



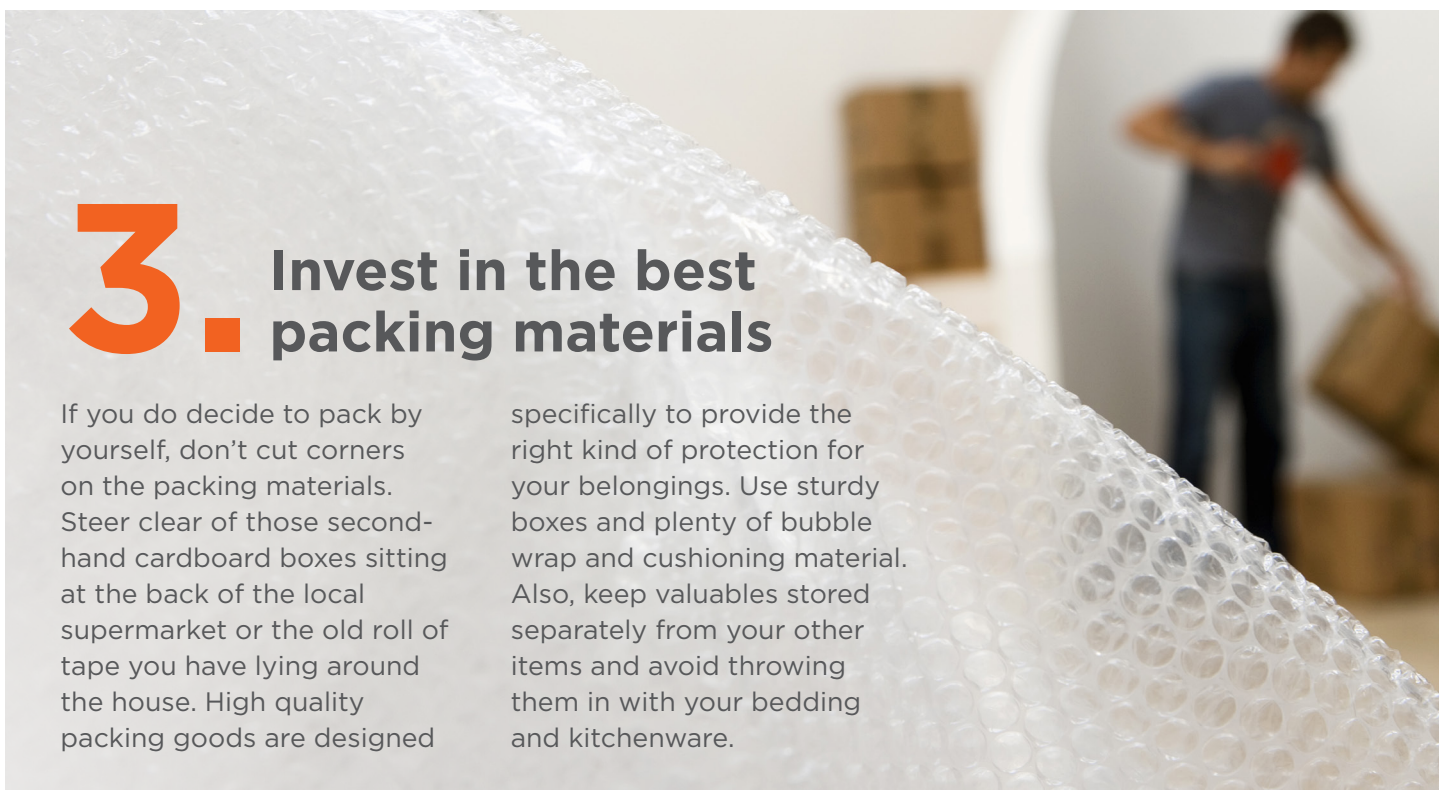
# 2. Go for a full packing service

Aim for a moving company that provides full packing services, including safe and secure packing of all your valuables. If you're moving long-distance, your boxes and crates will get lifted, moved and shifted about throughout the journey by many pairs of hands, so it pays to be well packed. This is particularly important for any valuables that might not fit in a standard moving box - professional movers can hand-build custom crates that will keep these items safe and secure throughout the relocation process.

# 3. Invest in the best packing materials

If you do decide to pack by yourself, don't cut corners on the packing materials. Steer clear of those second-hand cardboard boxes sitting at the back of the local supermarket or the old roll of tape you have lying around the house. High quality packing goods are designed

specifically to provide the right kind of protection for your belongings. Use sturdy boxes and plenty of bubble wrap and cushioning material. Also, keep valuables stored separately from your other items and avoid throwing them in with your bedding and kitchenware.





# 4.

## Take a detailed inventory of valuable items

Documenting each and every item that you are moving may seem like a tedious task, but it is one that will be well worth it should anything go wrong - or if anything goes missing. Back up your inventory with photos - this can be especially useful should there be any disputes over responsibility for damaged goods.

# 5.

## Keep any small valuables such as jewellery with you at all times

Movers are there primarily to do the heavy lifting of bulk goods, so it is in your best interest to keep any small valuables such as jewellery, expensive collectibles and sentimental items on your person. If you are flying, keep them in your carry-on luggage rather than inside your checked bags.



# 6.

## Put all important documents in one safe place

Keep items such as birth certificates and medical records in one place, preferably on your person. There is nothing worse than arriving in a new location and finding that crucial paperwork has gone missing or is still in transit. Remember also to keep a digital record of all your paperwork.





# 7.

## Value is not always about cost

Determine what is of value to you and protect it accordingly. Take care of those sentimental items – for instance a child’s favourite toy or a family heirloom. Losing these could be just as emotionally costly as losing an expensive watch. Necessities such as prescription medications should also be classed as valuable, as replacing them in a new and unfamiliar county could be a very stressful process.

# 8.

## Take out moving insurance

This should be a no-brainer. Insurance will give you peace of mind and will be there if anything is badly damaged. Your moving company will provide various insurance options, and your home insurance may also offer some level of protection. Check both before you leave to see exactly what is and isn’t covered. For certain valuable goods, you may need expanded coverage rather than just the basic protection.

# 9.

## Check everything on arrival

Once your belongings arrive at your new home the temptation is to immediately sign off on the final delivery. However, it pays to maintain the same diligence you have shown throughout the move, and that means doing a final walk-through of all your belongings – including valuables – before the movers drive off. Make sure you take photos of any damage – you can use these to compare with your initial inventory photos. Also, take photos of any related issues you notice with the packaging and boxes. These will help with any insurance claims you may need to make.

