

NATIONAL VAN LINES, INC.

Your Guide to a Stress-Free Move



CHAPTER 1

TOP 10 ORGANIZED PACKING TIPS





The best way to ensure a smooth moving day is being as organized as possible. National Van Lines has compiled a list of packing tips to make sure your packing and moving process goes off without a hitch.

BE ORGANIZED!

Organization is the glue that will hold your entire moving process together. Without organization, your move is bound to be far more stressful.

1

Colored file folder labels and stickers are quick ways to separate the items being shipped from those that are staying, or items going into storage. Mark cartons clearly.

Whenever possible, pack electronics in their original cartons. Make certain to use the formed Styrofoam. Record the model and serial number on the outside of the carton. To make installation easier at your new home, color-code cables and connectors with stick-on labels. Take a digital photo of the connections to assist in re-connecting.

2

3

Use Ziploc bags for packing like-items in desk drawers. As long as the bags are not very heavy and you have sealed the bag with enough air cushion to protect the contents, you can place the bagged items into the drawer.

Spare suitcases make great containers. You can pack them with soft goods and label them just like you would a carton.

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Create a “Last On-First Off” carton for each member of the family. Separate the daily essentials you need from the rest of your belongings and make sure they are packed last. This method will put those essentials closest to the door of the moving van, making them among the first items unloaded.

Use a spiral notebook as one common place to keep your family's list of “things to do”. Keep it in an easy-to-access spot, and have all family members use the same book. It reminds the rest of the family of things they may have forgotten and creates a little competition to check things off the list faster.



6



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Get rid of the things you don't need. Make donating clothing and other items a special experience. Visit the local Goodwill store or homeless shelter with your family. This makes the donation more personal and meaningful. Children will often part with toys, etc., more easily if they know that they are going to a good cause.

If you are packing your own items, consider creative ways to use linens, etc. as packing material. You can replace paper with dishcloths and towels, and use socks to wrap small knick-knacks.



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When packing pairs of shoes, wrap each shoe separately. Shoes can scuff each other if not properly protected.

Apply this rule of thumb: the heavier the item, the smaller the box.



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CHAPTER 2

3 TIPS FOR A LAST MINUTE MOVE





Even with advance notice, a fair amount of stress typically comes along with moving. Add a last-minute move and things can quickly become overwhelming. This is when organization will be extremely handy, not only for your move but also for your sanity.

Don't break under the stress of your move. Follow these stress-busting tips.

Tip 1: Discard Everything You Don't Need

With your move coming up quickly, you'll be faced with some tricky decisions. You need to move quickly.

Before you start packing, you'll need to decide what items stay and what items go. A last-minute move is stressful enough without having the weight of unnecessary baggage. Discard the things you don't need. To make these decisions easier and more effective, try sorting your items into these three categories:

1

Items that you will
keep

2

Items that you will donate
to charity or give to friends

3

Items that you will
discard



During this time, make these decisions as fast as possible. If there are some items that you are not sure about, consider putting these items in storage until the stress of your move subsides, and then you can go back and reevaluate the decision.

Tip 2: Separate Items of Clothing

Organizing now will make you happier when it's time to unpack.

Once you have determined the clothes you're going to keep, be sure to organize them. Don't forget to leave out the clothes you plan to wear within the next two weeks so you don't find yourself rummaging through your already packed boxes.



Tip 3: Don't Hesitate to Ask For Help

There are likely a hundred loose ends you need to tie up before you make your last minute move.

Don't let the stress of packing cause you to unravel. It's important to remember that you don't need to carry the weight of this move solely on your shoulders.

Hiring a moving company could considerably help and make your moving experience less stressful.



CHAPTER 3

SMART TIPS FOR PACKING FRAGILE ITEMS





Packing up all your belongings for a big move is stressful. If you don't have a set plan for packing and caring for your fragile items, things will get confusing. While an obvious solution is to hire a moving company to pack these fragile items for you, we understand that type of service is not always affordable. Here are some smart packing tips that will help ensure the safe packing and transporting of your fragile items.

Tip 1: Breakables go last!

Save your breakable items for last while packing your belongings. This can seriously benefit you during the packing process.

Pack everything else first. Packing breakables takes quite a bit of time because you need to be extra careful, so be certain to leave enough time for your fragile items.



Tip 2: Cushioning, cushioning, cushioning!

Bubble wrap and newspaper come in handy when you're packing up all your fragile items.

Not only should you use these materials to wrap your breakables, but also to line the bottom of the carton. This ensures extra cushioning support during transport.



Tip 3: The type of box you use matters!

It is important that you're using the correct type of box for your move.

You can pack up your possessions as neatly and organized as possible, but if they aren't packed in the correct box, all of your work could go to waste. Be sure you're using the correct box type for your fragile items.



To learn how to properly pack your dishes, for example, watch our "[How to Pack Dishes](#)" video, that demonstrates the proper way to ensure your plates arrive safely.

