

## Packing guide

For details about the best way to pack everything from dishes to tools and lawn equipment, check out our complete packing guide.

1. Pack the essentials that you will need during your first night in your new home (toilet paper, paper towels, paper plates and plastic utensils, snacks, coffee and coffee pot, bath towels, sheets, and cleaning supplies) separately in a clear plastic bin. Also pack a personal overnight bag (change of clothes, laptop, and toiletries) to take with you in the car. Make these the last things you pack so you can find them right away.
2. Take personal and sentimental items that can't be easily replaced with you in the car instead of having the movers load them on the truck.
3. Pack important documents like birth certificates, social security cards, and tax documents in a special box or briefcase.
4. Check the full list of non-allowables that Atlas cannot transport so you can make other moving arrangements ahead of time.
5. To save time and labor, pack things in place whenever possible. For instance, pull out your sock drawer and seal the socks inside with plastic wrap instead of taking them out and packing them in a box.
6. Use wardrobe boxes to safely back clothing items like coats and nice dresses without taking them off their hangers.
7. Vacuum seal your off-season clothes for easy storage when you arrive at your new home.
8. Write detailed labels on boxes stating which room they belong in (kitchen, bathroom, bedroom, dining room, etc.) and write labels on the side instead of the top so they can be seen when the boxes are stacked.
9. To avoid losing small parts like screws and cords, put them inside plastic bags and secure them on the item they belong to with tape.
10. Take photos to remember how the wires are connected for your electronics instead of struggling to put your sound system back together.
11. The safest way to pack electronics is in their original boxes.
12. Pack your dishes vertically in a box like records, instead of horizontally in stacks. They'll be less likely to break.
13. Are you a visual person? Use different colored tape to organize your boxes by room at a glance.
14. Never lose a box or go looking through five different boxes labeled "kitchen" to find the pizza cutter again. Label each box with a number and make a list of all the items packed in the box corresponding with each number on a notepad, on your phone, or in a Google Doc.
15. Don't struggle with an enormous box of hardcover cookbooks. Pack heavy items in small boxes.
16. Prevent toiletries and other liquids from leaking by removing the cap, placing plastic wrap or a plastic bag over the opening, and securing the cap back on over the plastic seal.

### Tips for Moving Day

- If you're moving into or out of a rental, take pictures of the empty house or apartment to avoid having to pay for damage you didn't cause.
- How much do you tip a mover? While tipping your professional movers is not required, it is customary to tip 10% of the total bill or \$20 to each person. Another way to show appreciation is to provide water or other refreshments.
- When you get to your new home, make the bed right away so you can fall into it at the end of a long day.
- Place your boxes in the rooms they belong in for easy unpacking.