

“Planning and Organizing your move into the Self-storage Unit(s)”

One of the primary advantages of using a self-storage facility is the fact that you can continue to access your items that are in storage. At this stage in your self-storage process, it's worthwhile taking some time to plan exactly how to pack your items into the storage unit.

Think creatively to make as much space as possible. Unit sizes are determined by price, so you can save money here by assessing what you have to store and planning to pack it efficiently. A smaller and well-packed unit will be cheaper than a larger one that is badly organized.

One of the first things to remember is to pack your storage unit in such a way that you can find things at a later date quickly and without unloading absolutely everything you've put away.

Some self-storage customers are careful about how they store their possessions while others do so haphazardly. Some pack their units incorrectly because they are in a rush or don't care, but many people simply don't have knowledge of how to store items correctly.

After all, some encouragement to store their items properly will result in happier tenants and fewer damage claims being filed against the storage facility.

Make an inventory of what you've packed and where or in what box you put it, do this as you are going along. Label all boxes clearly so you can identify the contents. Label your boxes on more than one side so you can see what is what quickly. Mark 'Fragile' on boxes containing breakable items.

You should also make an estimate of the replacement value of each item you store to help with accurate insurance policies and in case of unforeseen damage in the self-storage facility. Check with your homeowner's insurance company to see if your property is still insured while it is in storage.

You want to box everything you can. Everything that is left un-boxed has the risk of getting dusty and potentially dirty. Seal all your boxes with packing tape before you put them into the self-storage unit—this will help keep dust out of the contents.

Plan your layout of the storage unit. Place items in the order you will need to access them—those that will be readily used should be placed in the front of the storage unit.

Arrange boxes so the labels are facing out and easily read. Leave a walkway so that you can access your items as needed.

Do not store food—this will attract mice, ants and other pests.

If you are required to provide your own lock at your chosen self-storage facility, you shouldn't need any lock bigger than a 2". Ask the self-storage personal as to what will be acceptable and suitable. It will mostly depend on whether you have a climate or non-climate controlled unit as the construction material of the lock.