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Is there a checklist that I could follow to help me have an easier packing experience?

Yes. Print out the following list to help you pack for your move.

- Pack similar items together, i.e. don't pack a delicate china figurine with a cast iron skillet.
- Start packing the out-of-season items and things you use infrequently.
- Keep all parts or pairs together.
- Use re-sealable plastic bags for hardware, taping the bag securely to the item.
- Empty drawers of breakables, items that may spill or anything that would damage other items. Place them in plastic re-sealable bags for extra security.
- Leave lightweight, unbreakable items such as towels and sheets in the drawers.
- Wrap items individually in clean tissue paper or newsprint.
- Small items are easily identified when wrapped in colored paper. Label them, if needed.
- Very fragile items should be double wrapped and then wrapped in bubble wrap.
- Label boxes with fragile items "FRAGILE, This Side Up" .
- Wind electric cords, fastening them so they will not dangle.
- Put a two or three-inch layer of crushed paper in the bottom of a carton to serve as a cushion.
- Build up in layers, with heaviest things on the bottom, medium weight next, and lightest weight on top. Be careful not to over pack the box.
- As each layer is completed, fill in empty spaces with crushed paper, adding layers of crushed paper between items.
- Avoid overloading the carton but make sure that nothing "shifts".
- The carton cover should close easily with no bulges, and no inward or upward bends.
- Blankets, towels and other soft items may be used for cushioning.
- Seal cartons tightly with packing tape.
- Clearly mark each carton in large print with your name and the room to which the carton should be delivered
- Write "UNPACK FIRST" on items you will need at destination.
- When you arrive at your new home, tape a sign on the door of each room corresponding to your carton labeling.