

Meta Title: How To Pack A Suitcase | Portland.com

Meta Description: Figuring out how to pack a suitcase is important for any traveler. Get tips for making a vacation checklist and packing for a stress-free vacation today!

How to Pack for Your Trip

Learning how to pack for a trip may seem like a no-brainer for some, and you may even think you have great packing skills. However, perfecting the ability to pack is an art. For some methods of travel, like flying, a bag that is too heavy can cost you more money than you had anticipated. For other trips, a heavy bag is an inconvenience to carry, especially if you have to juggle other pieces of luggage and public transportation.

Figuring out the best ways to pack a suitcase can get your trip off to a great start. Instead of stressing about forgetting essential items, you can sit back and relax knowing that you have everything you need.

Make a List of Things to Pack for a Trip

When packing your suitcase and other travel items, a vacation checklist is just as essential as booking your trip and hotel. First, start by listing everything you will need to enjoy your trip and check to see if there are any travel restrictions.

A travel packing list is the best way to make sure you don't forget anything. You can always trim down the list later if you think some items can be left behind, but this can help you make a shopping list if anything is missing! Some must-have items for any trip include the following:

- **Clothing and undergarments**
 - Make sure you make a list of **weather appropriate** clothes.
 - Besides the clothing basics, think about any **additional garments** you might need. Cruises often have events that require dressier clothing, so make sure to bring appropriate clothing and footwear. If you are going to a beach destination, bring enough swimsuits and a cover up for the for the trip.
- **Shoes and socks**
 - Shoes take up a lot of space and add to the weight of your bag, so make sure to figure out how to pack your foot gear wisely. You may want athletic socks if you know your trip involves a lot of walking.
- **Electronics and charging equipment**
 - Make sure to write down all your devices and their charging cables and adapters on your travel packing list. Although you will likely be able to get any missing charging equipment, it is frustrating if you need to pay inflated prices on a ship or in an airport. Don't forget a battery pack in case your devices start running low!
- **Toiletries and medication**
 - The good thing about toiletries is that you should be able to find the basics anywhere you go. It's still good to list everything you might need, even if you buy some items when you get to your destination. If you're rushing to pack, it is easy to forget essentials or hard-to-find items.
 - Bring some basic **first aid items** instead of wasting money at a convenience store. Over-the-counter pain relief, bandages and antibiotic ointment, allergy relief and motion

sickness medicine are easy to pack in your suitcase. Don't forget any daily medication to stay healthy on your vacation!

- **Important documents and information**

- Whenever you travel, make sure to bring things like your passport, your driver's license or ID card, emergency contact information, insurance card and copies of important documents. Nothing is more stressful than forgetting or losing your ID on a trip.
- Bring credit cards and cash and inform your bank of your travel dates and locations. Don't forget to get foreign currency if you're leaving the country!

How to Pack a Suitcase

Now that you made a list of what to bring, here comes the hard part: packing. Sure, you can throw everything into a suitcase at the last minute, but once you get to your destination, your suitcase will be a wreck. If you use all of the best ways to pack clothes, it will make living out of your suitcase that much easier.

For some, one of the best ways to pack a suitcase is by using packing cubes. These little bags allow you to organize your suitcase efficiently without taking up a lot of room. Depending on the set, you can get cubes of different sizes, so you can mix and match for the best ways to pack your clothes.

When possible, you can pack your different outfits in the bag to avoid going through each bag for every piece of clothing you need. Alternatively, you can use compression or vacuum bags to maximize the space in your luggage. Some space saving bags require a pump, but if you don't have the space, you can find ones that roll up to remove air.

When figuring out how to pack, one of the best methods is roll your clothes instead of folding. Rolling softer materials will help you conserve space for bulkier pieces of clothing made of stiffer materials. Rolling can help you find clothes in a suitcase easier if you don't have the space to unpack your clothing.

Wondering how to pack a backpack for a hike? Make sure that you get high-quality gear so your bag will survive the journey. When you pack your bag, the best thing to do is layer items by importance. For example, you can load the bottom of your pack with bulky items and things that are not necessary until you reach your destination.

The top is good for frequently used or needed items while you are out on the trail. The middle of the pack is deal for heavy things. This distribution of weight makes it easier for all hikers to carry essential supplies.

How to Pack Only What You Need

Some people may not need to worry about overpacking if they are on short trips or can afford to pay for overweight or additional bags. However, figuring out how to pack light for extended trips or for smaller suitcases is essential for many travelers.

To reduce the number of items you pack, go through your vacation checklist. Are there items you can wear multiple days without washing? You can bring laundry detergent pods or sheets to do laundry in your sink if necessary, or you can pay for laundry services at or near your hotel.

Toiletries are definitely another area where you can reduce weight and space. Pack only what you need and get travel-sized items. Remember that you can always pick up toiletries during your travels.