

The Mango guide to packing the perfect box

Step 1: First things first

Size: Pick a box that's big enough to take both your contents and some cushioning material, such as bubble wrap, with ease. Don't be tempted to use a box that's too small.

Stability: Regardless of what you're sending, make sure your box is tough and rigid to reduce the chances of it tearing.

Vernon's top tip: *"We all want to do our bit for the environment, but if you're re-using an old box, make sure it's up to the job. Only use one in excellent condition with no punctures or rips, also make sure not to use a box too large for small items"*

Step 2: What's on the inside?

Before you pack: Like naughty children, it's best to keep items apart from each other. Wrap them separately with multiple layers, paying attention to corners and sharp edges.

Cushion the impact: Choosing the right stuffing is important – here are the rules:

Bubble wrap

Good for Fragile items/heavy fragile items

Not good for Items with sharp edges

Things to watch Very high or low temperatures can deflate bubbles

Giant bubble wrap

Good for Filling large spaces/large delicate items like glasses

Not good for Items with sharp edges

Things to watch Very high or low temperatures can deflate bubbles

Polystyrene stuffing

Good for Items that will leave you with large spaces around them.

Not good for Flat/narrow objects

Things to watch static electricity from the polystyrene may cause damage to electronic items

Corrugated card

Good for Use in conjunction with other stuffing

Not good for Using by itself

Things to watch Use the card to keep polystyrene from shifting too much.

Double-boxing

Good for Very fragile items

Not good for Non-fragile items

Things to watch Double-boxing with a layer of cushioning in between is only necessary with very fragile items.

Crumpled craft paper

Good for Filling space between light-weight, non-fragile items

Not good for Anything fragile or sharp

Vernon's top tip: *"Before you close your box, put an address label inside, just in case"*

Step 3: That's a wrap

Avoid confusion: Be sure to remove or cross out any old labels or markings.

Tape it up: To seal your box, only use strong packing tape that is at least two inches wide. Never be tempted to use string, paper, masking tape etc.

Step 4: Love your labels

Where to stick: Put your label on the top of the package, avoiding seams, closures and tape. If you're using a packing slip, stick it to the same side as the address label.

Be clear: Use just one label with a clear, complete delivery address and your 'return to sender' details.

Going abroad?: For international shipments, include a contact name and number.

Vernon's top tip: *"If you're using a mailing tube instead of a box, stick the label"*

For any questions about the best way to pack a box for couriers, storage or a house move, call the Mango team on 0845 274 4444.