

How to pack a self storage unit

1. Prior to putting your belongings into a self storage unit **make a list or take photos of all of the items** in the unlikely event that something happens to them whilst in storage and you need to make an insurance claim.
2. **Pack as much of your belongings in strong uniformed sized boxes** as this will make stacking them easier allowing you to make the most of the vertical space.
3. Start by **covering the ground space with a dust sheet** to protect your goods.
4. Identify your heaviest or fullest boxes and put these with your **bulky items in first**. Set anything aside that you will need regular access to.
5. Position any **items that you will need regular access to at the front** of the unit. If you're going to need regular access to most of the items in the unit you may want to leave an aisle.
6. **Clearly identify fragile goods**, and make sure the labels can be easily seen.
7. **Storing sofas and mattresses on end**, and stacking chairs pad-to-pad, will help you to minimise the amount of space you need.
8. **It is recommended** to leave a ventilation space around the insides and between the top of stored goods and the ceiling so that air can circulate and the side vents are not blocked.
9. **Stack your boxes**, maximising your space, from the back of the unit and fill your space methodically towards the front – don't forget to use single items for filling gaps as you go.
10. If possible **raise boxes/items off the floor** with wooden pallets.
11. **Make the most of hollow spaces**. Don't leave wardrobes, chest of drawers, laundry baskets or suitcases empty. Fill those spaces with things such as clothing, linen or pillows.
12. Take care to **safely pack sharp edges or garden tools** to avoid accidents. Outside equipment should be cleaned before storage, and lawnmower blades or cutting tools should be lightly oiled.
13. When all your items are in, **cover with a dust sheet** to keep them clean and protected.
14. Secure your unit with a padlock.

Temperature fluctuations in a shipping container

It's important to note, whilst a shipping container will keep the weather out, the temperature will fluctuate quite a lot as there is no insulation in a standard shipping container. You will have to assume that the temperature swing inside the shipping container will be similar to the temperature change outside.

Condensation or sweat in a shipping container

As they cool down overnight a standard (not insulated) shipping container will get some condensation form on the inside of the roof of your container that may drip into the cargo space.

There are a number of ways to prevent or combat condensation in a shipping container. Very briefly we'd recommend:

- **The Aquadry pole** which is a completely sealed unit containing **anhydrous calcium chloride** and is designed to be hung up inside to absorb moisture from within the container, therefore reducing the risk of condensation. We are pleased to offer **Aquadry poles to purchase at a cost of £20 each plus VAT**. As a guide you will require one pole for a 10ft container and one-two for a 20ft container and these will need to be replaced around every 3-4 months.

We do recommend a high security lock box and an insurance rated padlock for any containers that are being used for storage.