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REMOVALS: PACKING

By Peter Driscoll

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Peter Driscoll of European Transport Brokers (www.etbrokers-removals.com) takes you through some of the trials and tribulations associated with moving to Europe and explains away some of the mystery associated with moving to France.

As always its all about size, and when moving size IS important! >=Well sir, it looks to me that you have about 45 cubic metres here, but Ill have to get back to the office to confirm that=Ah= but the last company told me I had 1365 feet. Is there a difference?

In the UK we have traditionally measured volume in cubic feet, easily calculated by taking the height, width and depth and multiplying the three together. Hence a washing machine that is say 3ft by 4ft by 3ft, measures 36 cubic feet. If you measure in metres then it is 0.9m by 0.9m by 1.2 m, which gives 0.98m³. To convert from cubic feet back to cubic metres just divide the cubic feet by 35 to give you the cubic metres. So 1365 cubic feet becomes 39 cubic metres!!

>=Ah=My dining room table is 3 foot tall by 6 by 4 which gives a total of 72 cubic feet, but what about all the space under the table=boxt count in the first place!

Remember here that if you use a Brokerage for your move then whether you have 20m³ or 24m³ it is not going to make a difference to the price you pay, as the broker is looking for spare capacity on a vehicle. Removal companies if approached directly, will charge more for 24m³ than for 20m³, but they will in general terms be fairly flexible! The important thing is not to underestimate what you have got as this only causes problems.

Having arrived at your total volume and after receiving horrendous quotes to move your belongings, a flash of clear thinking suddenly raises its head and you say >=Lets do it ourselves and save a fortune Five years ago I was looking to get my own house contents moved to the South of France. I received (as usual) quotes that were in the region of four to five thousand pounds. I then decided to >=DIY I actually took time off work. My brothers in law also took five days off their holiday allowances. If they had had to be paid, or if I had paid myself for the hours worked then the story would have been different. Then we come to the >=invisible=tad

One of the questions we continually get asked concerns packing. The easiest and cheapest way is to

REMOVALS: PACKING

pack yourselves, especially if you have time. BUT (there is always a but!) be aware that goods that you pack yourself may not qualify for the >=full=Total Loss

As for the actual packing most companies offer a packing service for European loads. This service can extend to cover the >=packing=blanket=overseas=Full export=bubble wrapped

Finally, if packing yourself, please do not overload boxes! All too often a box is picked up and the contents promptly fall through the bottom. However one of the companies recently reported to us that upon arrival at a clients house every room was neatly stacked with boxes. The clients appeared to be very well organised and all the boxes were numbered and all sealed. The removal men lifted a box each and everything in the boxes simply slipped out the bottom of the boxes. The client had made up the boxes, sealed the tops and totally forgotten to seal the bottoms of every single box!

Peter Driscoll of European Transport Brokers (www.etbrokers-removals.com) has moved many times in his life and has many tips to offer on how to make the move go smoothly

Student Removals– Self Packing and Insurance – For Proper Protection

By Stephen Willett

Student Removals– Self Packing and Insurance – For Proper Protection by Stephen Willett

Students and people undertaking small removals are very likely to want to pack themselves.

Whereas self packing will save money, it muddies the water as far as both insurers and removers are concerned. Spurious claims, poorly defined responsibility (e.g you packed it badly), and the high administrative cost of 'adjusting' claims for small amounts, all mitigate against good value for the customer. Policies are so diluted by exclusion and excess clauses, that they are usually ineffective against breakages.

You should however, insure your property – against theft, and complete loss or destruction. Moreover you should take a policy independent of a removal company's cover (talk to a student insurance specialist). I will go further: If a remover insists you buy insurance from them **find another company...**

Why? – Consider this: if a removal company is acting as an agent for an insurer, he cannot allow his business to become a funnel for claims. the remover will himself look a bad risk and be uninsurable. Not only that, but the remover will be contractually obliged not to admit liability on behalf of the insurer (like in motor insurance). **The removal company may thus be an impediment to your claim.** That is not to say that removers are not themselves covered by their own insurance:– as a minimum they will have public liability cover.

Protect yourself with an independent policy in your name.

Your money is well spent on proper packaging and packing. Most breakages are the result of a lack of, or inadequate preparation. If you take the all too common view that your mover should just pick an item

REMOVALS: PACKING

up and load it on a van, you will become another statistic.

When you have agreed a collection and delivery type of arrangement (rather than a packing service), then the mover will have no further responsibility beyond loading your property as it is presented to him.

So, to help start you thinking about packing for any move that you might be planning:—
Here are a few common examples of shocking packing:

Kitchen crockery and glass piled up in an open avocado box – rattle shake and break!

Stereos and computers covered by bin liners - the worst of both worlds - not only are these items not protected, but the mover cannot see what is being handled.

Picture glass protected with bubble wrap - is protected from nothing. You must cover picture glass with cardboard like a flattened box

Clothes and bedding stuffed into a single and probably open bin bag - they invariably rip. If you must

(and you will!), double up the bags and leave room to tie them up. Boxes are far better.

Books, paperwork and vinyl in large boxes that almost weigh as much as a piano - A 12 bottle wine box is the maximum size.

Pack boxes **tidily** so they close flat (with nothing poking out) for stacking. Keep the **weight manageable**. Mark them clearly with your **address and contact numbers**. Package as much as you can and **number** the boxes so you (or the receiver) will be able to check that everything has arrived. Have a successful move!

You can read more about reducing your removal cost together with packing and packaging advice at:—

The author has spent 25 years in various service industries, including the last 8 in the removals sector.

Student Removals— Self Packing and Insurance – For Proper Protection

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