

International News



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## How to Build a Bulkhead

In our last communication we brought you information on loading a steamship container. The final step before sealing and transporting the container is to build a bulkhead to make sure that the load inside will not shift during transit. You should never move a fully loaded steamship container without having a bulkhead in place.

It's important that the construction of the bulkhead be solid. There are generally 2 methods used.

1. **2 x 4's only method.** To use this method you need to make sure that when you finish the load you have a flat surface. Then, firmly wedge two or three 2 x 4's against the cartons and crates of the final tier and wedge the end of the boards into the ribs of the container. Once these braces are in place, nail two or more boards to the braces so that they will stay firmly in place.
2. **2 x 4's and plywood method.** Place two sheets of plywood firmly against the face of the last tier. To secure, run 2 x 4's against the plywood from one side of the container to the other and wedge each end into the ribs of the container. In addition, nail another 2 x 4 to the floor of the container up against the sheets of plywood so that it does not shift and everything stays in place.

Once the bulkhead is in place and the load is secure you can then shut the doors and seal the container.

Performing this crucial step is the difference between a shipment that sustains little or no damage and one that incurs much damage. Remember, a satisfied customer is your best advertisement!

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