



International News

From our corner of the world to yours.

Loading a Steamship Container

Loading household goods into a steamship container is very similar to loading a domestic shipment into a trailer. Like a domestic move, the heavier and bulkier items are loaded first as a base, or first tier, and then lighter items are stacked on top.

Although similar, one major difference between loading a steamship container and a trailer is that international shipments are wrapped in paper pads which make it difficult to identify the contents. What may appear as sturdy may not be suitable for the first tier. We recommend that the same crew that packed the shipment also load it since they can more easily identify the boxes and items for safe loading.

Before loading any items into the container you must line the container with used cardboard. Line the floor and sides of the container as you move along and build each tier. Then, just as you would in a trailer, begin building tiers in layers. Heavier, weight bearing items go on the bottom tier- i.e. dressers and desks. **DO NOT** load couches and over-stuffed furniture on the bottom tier or stack cartons or heavy items on them. Leave room at the top of the tier, or load it vertically. Place cardboard on the top of the base and around the sides.

Medium items such as night stands, coffee tables and small appliances could go on the second layer, as well as sturdy cartons. As you load each tier, items should be distributed evenly and try to make them level as well. The top layer should consist of smaller and fragile items. Finally, the last tier closest to the doors should consist of mattress and mirror cartons. This will finish off the load and help keep the shipment secure. Keep in mind that there are no logistics tracks to secure the tiers so you must pack the shipment as tightly as possible. All gaps and spaces should be filled with bundles or other wrapped items.

Finally, you will need to build a bulkhead to make sure that the load will not shift during transit. Stay tuned for our next email on “How to Build a Bulkhead.”

We hope you found this information helpful. Should you have questions please contact us directly.

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