

 **Freight Packaging.**
What's the big deal?



Freight Packaging Issues.

There are 3 common problems that many shippers face.

- 1** Your shipment gets damaged in transit.
- 2** Your shipment damages another shipment in transit.
- 3** Your pickup of the shipment is refused because of poor packaging. (This means repackaging, rescheduling and paying for a second pickup.)

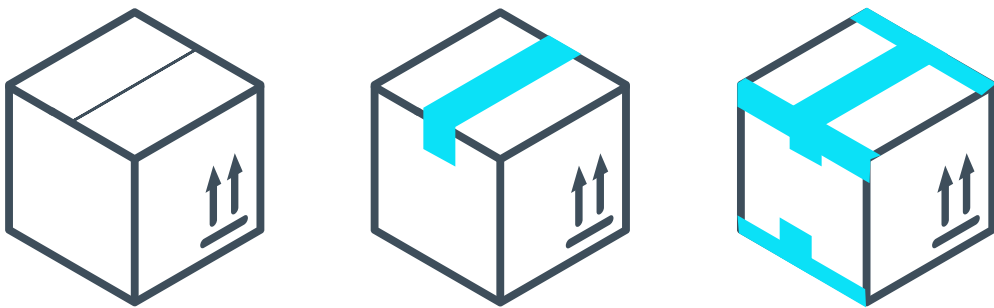
We've created this Freight Packaging eBook with the goal of helping you avoid these problems and to provide expert tips for seamless shipping.



External Packaging.

Types of packaging materials.

Don't be shocked, but the most crucial step of shipping freight is choosing the right shipping container. Punctures, abrasions, environmental exposures, poor handling and vibration can all contribute to shipment damage. So, what options do you have to protect your precious cargo?



1. Cardboard Boxes

The most common container. These paper-based containers can handle changes in temperature – however they are single-use options. Make sure to look on the bottom flaps for the stamped seal informing you about the maximum size and weight the container can hold.

Sealing Boxes - Boxes require proper sealing. Follow the H-Taping method with 2" wide tape — apply 3 strips of tape to the top and bottom of the box, specifically the flaps and seams.



Note: Avoid non-packaging tapes like masking, duct and cellophane tape.

2. Crates

Wooden or plastic crates provide full coverage for your freight. It's the safest way to transport your goods.

Crating Tips:

- ➔ No parts of your shipment should protrude outside the crate.
- ➔ All movable items within the crate should be blocked or braced.
- ➔ Commodities with legs must be suspended away from the crate's walls by 1".
- ➔ Fasteners should be on the side or edge grain.
- ➔ Plywood is preferred. It's the most durable material.
- ➔ Knots in the wood of the crate can be no larger than one-third of the surface where they appear. Fasteners cannot be located inside of knots.
- ➔ Crates should have an attached pallet.

3. Pallets

Much of what you ship can (and should!) be placed on a pallet for easier forklift handling. Pallets help consolidate your load and reduce the potential for damage.



Note:

Every piece of freight must be movable by forklift.
Place your cargo on a pallet and always use a four-way entry pallet.

Let's up your pallet game with these universal pallet tips:

- ➔ Pallet should be large enough to accommodate your cargo without overhang.
- ➔ The top layer of boxes should be flat to allow for stackability.
- ➔ Avoid broken pallets and pallets with missing pieces.
- ➔ Don't interlock your freight — it will weaken the strength of the pallet.
- ➔ Make sure fasteners are flush with the surface (or below) before loading.
- ➔ The less space between deck boards (or the multiple flat boards that make up the top and bottom of the pallet) the more support. This will prevent forklift damage from below.
- ➔ Bottom deck boards increase a pallet's strength and stability during handling.
- ➔ Know the capacity of your pallet. Do not exceed it.
- ➔ More tips: [freight packaging tips.](#)



4. Palletizing Cartons

Avoid damage by taking the proper steps when packaging. Pallet overhang, misaligned column stacks, incorrect size and weight distribution weakens container strength and leads to damage.



Note: Flat surfaces provide more strength and stability and are less likely to cause damage to freight in the trailer.

Interlocked stacking can reduce compression strength of the pallet by up to 50%. That's why properly aligned column stacking is preferred — corner to corner, edge to edge.

5. Packaging for Odd Shaped Freight

If it fits in the box, it can ship. But what about those oddly shaped items, like pipes or antenna components?

With special planning, other materials can be shipped on oversized pallets:

- ➔ Bundle — Consolidate two or more items into a single package to save money and reduce the risk of loss and damage.
- ➔ Blocking — Prevent shipments from jostling by bracing them with wood fastened to the pallet. This will keep pieces safe and in place.
- ➔ Securing — This should go without saying, but we'll say it anyway: strap bundles to the pallet. Keep strapping out of the way of forklift blades.

6. Drum & Pail Shipments

To have successful drum and pail shipments, you'll need a few things:

- ➔ Corrugated sheets — These will slip between the drum and pallet decking and should be no smaller than the base of the drum.
- ➔ Banding Cleats — These will prevent steel-on-steel contact and slipping and spreads the force of the strapping.
- ➔ Strapping — Creating one unit will assure the ease of handling for the bundle. Steel preferred. Make sure they are secured to the pallet.
- ➔ A Centered Drum — Keep it centered on the pallet and do not allow for overhang. Multiple drums should be bundled together to take up as little pallet space as possible.

Secure it:
**“Think of it as
applying a
seatbelt to
your package!”**





Freight.

Without pallets.

While palletizing your shipments is preferred, there are some items that shouldn't be palletized.

For Example:

- ➔ Lightweight items — Things like paddleboards or surfboards should not be palletized and will travel better (and safer!) boxed and top loaded.
- ➔ Mattresses — Mattresses must be boxed.
- ➔ Spools, reels & pipes — These can be shipped without a pallet if they have 4" to 6" feet or legs that make them movable by forklift.
- ➔ Carpets — Use a carpet pole if the carpet is 12' long. It's a forklift accessory made to help transfer rolled carpets and other textiles.



Secure Freight.

Banding and stretch wrapping.

Packages not properly secured or stacked are in danger during transit. But this is totally avoidable. Banding and stretch wrapping your precious cargo will protect your freight from damaging itself or another shipper's load.

Banding

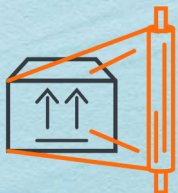
Banding is typically used to secure bundled loads to pallets. Make sure you band close together to avoid damage, breakage and exposure. To avoid crushing the edges of cardboard boxes, use band cleats or strap protectors.

Stretch Wrap

Stretch wrap provides full coverage protection and keeps your load uniform. Cover the entirety of a package, from top to bottom, with stretch wrap.

Load Protectors & Edge Boards

Protect the top and bottom of your shipment with load-protector pads. The weight of top loaded freight should be distributed properly, while the bottom load will keep boxes from slipping (especially into the slats of the pallet). Use edge boards to protect the corners of your product, while stabilizing the load and increasing stacking strength.



Note:
Use a high-quality wrap and protect your load.
Secure your load to a pallet with banding.
Keep it accessible to the forklift.

Internal Packaging.

Types of packaging materials.

Having the correct materials inside your box or crate will keep your cargo protected on its journey. Some internal packaging options that could suit your cargo best:

1. Bubble Wrap

Its flexibility makes it the perfect fit for strangely shaped items.

2. Corrosion Protection

Sprays & plastic film protects non-treated metals from harsh elements.

3. Foam Cushioning

Can be cut to fit the specific needs of a shipment.

4. Honeycomb

Its versatility allows it to be used inside and outside of a package.

5. Loose Fill

Good for filling up voids in containers and protecting against shock.

6. Paper Pad

Perfect for filling, wrapping up or blocking strangely shaped items.



Note:

The weight of your shipment with internal packaging materials can impact your budget. The more weight you have in the least amount of space means a higher density and a lower freight class, saving you money.





Shipping Labels. And Precautionary Markings.

This is the most important step! If your cargo isn't labeled, the carrier will still pick it up, but you risk being charged a Marking and Tagging fee to label the freight. This is an avoidable billing adjustment.

How to Label Your Cargo:

- ❏ Label all sides of your cargo visibly with name, address and correct zip code (consignor and consignee).
- ❏ Show handling labels and precautionary markings (fragile/handle with care, up arrows, keep dry, etc.) on all sides of your freight.
- ❏ Make sure your handling labels and precautionary markings are in text and picture form.



Note:

Labeling your cargo is the most important step in the packaging process. We provide complete shipping labels for your convenience.



Let's wrap it up.

(Pun intended.)

Properly packaging your freight shipment is one of the most important things you can do to make your shipping experience go smoothly.

Start Shipping! Visit us online today at [FreightCenter.com](https://www.FreightCenter.com) or call (800) 716-7608.

