

Checklist for moving your items into self storage.

- Make an inventory list of all the belongings you want to store (this may already have been determined when you have done your pre-move purge list).
- Determine what you have than CANNOT go into storage such as foodstuffs and dangerous goods (corrosive, flammable, explosive, spontaneously combustible, toxic, oxidising or water-reactive goods). If these items are stored and cause damage it could invalidate your insurance.
- Make sure all important documents are separated away from anything you are moving into storage.
- Airflow is limited even in the best facilities so it could be a good idea to guard furniture against the risk of humidity, mould or mildew damage and treat timber and leathers before moving them to a facility.
- Protect the structural integrity of furniture by emptying out drawers and wardrobes. If possible, remove the legs from furniture such as beds, lounges, tables etc.
- If you are storing fridges, freezers or washing machines, make sure they are cleaned out (vinegar is good for this) and dried thoroughly. Leaving doors slightly ajar prevents musty smells and mildew as well as deterioration of rubber seals if they won't be used for some time.
- If possible, pack electrical items in their original packaging, or pack them securely in moving boxes with plenty of protective packaging.
- Label your storage boxes clearly with their contents, on all sides and the top of the box.
- If you are storing mirrors or artwork it is a good idea to purchase specific flat-pack packing boxes and custom packing material to store these items to keep them safe, particularly if they are valuable.
- Pack books flat to prevent curvature of the spine.
- If you need to store clothing, you can get custom packing boxes to hang your clothes like they are in a wardrobe, the space at the bottom of the box is good for storing shoes (preferably in shoe boxes).
- If you are storing items that are susceptible to extreme heat or cold (such as old photos, books or vinyl records) it is a good idea to double wrap them. Storing these in plastic is also a way of keeping them dry.

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- Keep out dust and insects by wrapping furniture with 'removalist blankets', sometimes these are included free, ask about them when you get quotes.
- Remove batteries from remotes, toys and other battery operated items so the battery acid doesn't leak and cause irreversible damage.
- If you are storing lawn mowers or other petrol operated machinery make sure you drain out the petrol and oil to prevent a potential fire hazard.
- Drain garden hoses and loop them into a coil and secure with zip-ties, use the connectors to clip the ends together and complete the loop.
- Make a list of everything you are planning to move into storage, this will come in handy for insurance purposes or if you hire professional packers, to compare with their inventory list as a cross check!