

# Tips from Rte 41 Storage

## How to Pack a 5x10 Storage Unit

A 5x10 storage unit offers 50 square feet of space - about the size of a large walk-in closet. It's a popular choice for storing the contents of a small room, seasonal items, or a studio apartment. Packing it efficiently can save you time, money, and ensure your items stay safe.

### Step 1: Plan and Prepare

- Make an inventory: List all items you plan to store. Group them by size and fragility.
- Gather packing supplies: Collect boxes (small, medium, and large), bubble wrap, packing paper, tape, markers, and furniture covers.
- Disassemble furniture: Take apart beds, tables, and other large items to save space. Keep screws and small parts in labeled bags taped to the furniture.

### Step 2: Pack Boxes Properly

- Use same-sized boxes when possible: This makes stacking easier and maximizes vertical space.
- Pack heavy items in small boxes: This prevents boxes from becoming too heavy to lift and helps avoid damage.
- Label every box: Write the contents and room on at least two sides of each box for easy identification later.

### Step 3: Organize Your Unit

1. Place large, heavy items first: Put mattresses, dressers, and appliances at the back and along the sides of the unit.
2. Stack boxes with heavier ones on the bottom and lighter ones on top: This prevents crushing and keeps things stable.

3. Create aisles: Leave a small walkway down the center or side for easy access to items at the back.
4. Store items you might need near the front: Keep things like seasonal decorations, important documents, or tools accessible.

#### Step 4: Protect and Secure Your Items

- Use furniture covers and sheets: Protect furniture and mattresses from dust and scratches.
- Wrap fragile items: Use bubble wrap, packing paper, or towels to cushion breakables. Mark these boxes as "Fragile."
- Don't stack boxes too high: Avoid unstable stacks - no higher than you can safely reach.
- Lock up: Use a sturdy lock for extra security.

#### Tips for Maximizing a 5x10 Unit

- Store items vertically when possible - stand couches and mattresses on end.
- Utilize shelves or stackable bins for small items.
- Fill empty spaces in drawers, appliances, and cabinets with smaller items to maximize every inch.
- Keep a diagram or photo of your packed unit for reference.

With careful planning and smart packing, a 5x10 storage unit can hold a surprising amount. Take the time to organize, label, and protect your belongings to make storage stress-free and efficient. Regularly check your unit if you'll access items often, and adjust your organization as needed.