

Packing Home Entertainment Equipment for a Safe Journey

David Gregg, new product reporter and senior editor at *Behindthebuy.com* shares tips from some of his favorite sources including *www.mayflower.com* and *www.unitedvanlines.com* on how to keep your electronics safe until you reach your new home!

Home Theater Components and Computer Equipment

- **First things first – Label Your Cables and Equipment Inputs** – Use an electronic labeler or purchase color coated cord kits from an electronic retailer to identify what cable goes into the correct input on all of your audio, video and computer equipment before you unplug everything for packing. This strategy will remove the guesswork when reconnecting all of your equipment once you are ready to set everything up at your new residence.
- **Pack all of your cables and remotes in the same box** – This tip will make it much easier to find everything you need to reconnect and program your equipment.
- **Stabilize** -- To stabilize the laser on a CD/DVD player or computer drive, replace the transport screw (normally located on the bottom of the unit if applicable to your model).
- **When packing your tech equipment, use original packing materials if available.** If original packing materials are not available, wrap your equipment with an old blanket and place it upright in a double corrugated box (available at most van line and moving truck rental companies).
- **Exterior Labels** -- Once you've got the cords and cables packed away, be sure to label boxes for larger equipment "Fragile" and "This Side Up." Also be sure to completely seal the boxes with packing tape to avoid mishaps and to keep the dust out.
- **Temperature Sensitive** – Temperature is one of the most overlooked issues when moving your expensive electronics. Electronics are sensitive to the heat and cold; so don't move them into a vehicle or storage unit with extreme temperatures. If possible, wait until the day of the move to place them in your car — where they will be safer than in a jarring moving van — and remove them promptly once you are at your new location.
- **Storing Valuable Electronics** -- If you're not going to unpack boxes for a while or have to store your belongings for a time, you may want to deter any thieves by coding your electronics. Instead of labeling the box containing your expensive television with its actual contents, write an innocuous code on the outside of the box instead. For flat panel TVs, consider labeling it, "Office or Playroom Bulletin Board." If you are using the original packaging to move electronics, consider placing that box in a larger box, packing the sides with newspaper to prevent it from moving around.

Packing Your Flat Panel TV

- **Position** -- The ideal way to transport any flat panel TV that is 26 inches or larger is to move it in the upright position, unless it is still packed in the original manufacturer carton. If your TV is moved flat it runs a greater risk of sustaining damage by getting struck by a dropped box or other item during the moving process.
- **Protective Covering** -- Manufacturers recommend covering the screen with a soft cloth (to prevent scratching).
- **Packaging Options** -- If you saved the original packing materials that came with your TV, this is the least expensive and best option, as the inserts that came with your original packaging will be sized exactly to your television. If you do not have the original packing materials and your TV is under 60", you can purchase a flat screen packing kit made just for this purpose from most moving companies, even UPS, or simply make you own:
 - Obtain a roomy carton or crate big enough to hold the TV plus packing materials. Styrofoam (3" - 4" thick) should be placed at each of the four corners allowing the unit to be elevated inside the carton or crate.
 - It should not be placed directly on the cardboard or wood crate bottom.
 - Additional Styrofoam (2" -3" thick) should be placed on the screen as well as the backside of the unit.