

Dainton Self Storage Packing & Storage Advice

We care about the belongings you store with us and work hard to maintain high standard storage facilities and great customer service at all our sites. For example we treat our storage containers with a specialist coating called Grafo which helps to reduce condensation and protect the items stored within them.

With over 40 years' experience we have put together the following tips to help you ensure your belongings remain in good condition.

Before Moving Into Storage

- Get the right tools for the job! The strength of boxes will degrade over time so use good quality boxes and packing materials. Take a look at our page or pick up your supplies from any dainton site.
- By using similar sized boxes it will be easier to stack them securely and you will save space.
- Make an estimate of the replacement value of each item you store to help with accurate valuations for insurance purposes.

Packing For Storage

- Filling boxes to capacity will help prevent breakages, but avoid over-packing your boxes and making them too heavy to lift!
- Use towels, paper or bubble-wrap to fill the spaces in your boxes. If you are stacking boxes then the ones at the bottom need to be sturdy enough to hold the weight above. Boxes that are only partly filled may tip over or collapse.
- Label your boxes clearly so you can identify the contents and keep an inventory. Label the boxes on more than one side so you can quickly tell what is inside. Make sure any boxes containing breakable items are marked as "Fragile".
- Don't put all your heavy items in one box. Put a few heavy items at the bottom and top-up the box with lighter items.
- If you are storing books then pack them flat and not on their spines to avoid damage.
- Seal all your boxes with packing tape before putting them into the storage unit.

Preventing Damage From Moisture

- Don't store damp items because they can cause water damage and encourage mould.
- Don't pack items in sealed plastic bags. Humidity can cause mildew.
- Large appliances need care before placing in storage. Make sure you defrost fridges and freezers thoroughly before storing them to reduce the chance of water damage.
- Drain washing machines before storing them and tie down hoses etc. Appliances should be clean and dry when they are put into storage.
- Fasten the doors of large appliances so they are securely shut during the move. Leave them slightly ajar once in storage to stop condensation forming and prevent bad odours.

Packing Fragile & Delicate Items

- Wrap all fragile items and breakables such as dishes, glasses and ornaments separately. Paper will do, but bubble wrap is a good investment. Pack them tightly into strong boxes, filling any gaps with paper or filler. Avoid putting heavy items on top of fragile ones.
- If you are storing clothes then we recommend that you buy a wardrobe or clothes box which helps them keep their shape while they are hanging in them. Storing



clothes in bin liners can trap moisture meaning your clothes could become damaged.

- Separate lamp bases and lamp shades and wrap them for protection.
- The best protection for mirrors and pictures is to wrap them in a protective covering such as bubble wrap and stack them on their ends. Mirrors and pictures should never be stored flat and should be marked as "Fragile".
- Think carefully about whether you really want to store photographs because these can have great sentimental value. If you do store loose photographs, place them between pieces of clean cardboard and tape them together to avoid curling.

Furniture Storage

- If you are storing upholstered products such as mattresses and sofas, we would strongly advise investing in covers, bags or sheets to give them some additional protection.
- Stand sofas and mattresses on end to save space and don't stack too much on top of soft furnishings. Mattresses are best stored on the long end and should be raised above floor level or laid on protective sheeting.
- Mattresses hold a surprising amount of moisture and should not be put next to any polished surfaces or wooden furniture.
- If you are storing a few items of furniture on top of each other, a simple dust sheet or cover placed between items will minimise scratching and damage.
- You will save space if you dismantle furniture such as beds and tables before you store them –make sure you keep all the bits so you can put them back together again!
- Wrap and cover furniture sections and keep them together, clearly marked for quick retrieval. You can put components such as screws and bolts in a plastic bag. Mark the bags clearly and tape them to the relevant piece of furniture. Store large pieces of furniture vertically to save space.
- Chairs can be stacked seat to seat to save space. Cover chair legs with protective wrapping for extra protection.
- Spray your wood furniture with good quality furniture polish before storing it in the facility to give it some added protection.
- Use furniture drawers as extra boxes (they are especially good for fragile items) and use the inside of wardrobes to store boxes.



Storing Electrical Goods & Unusual Items

- Electrical equipment such as TVs, stereos and computers should be packed in their original boxes wherever possible. If this isn't possible, store them in boxes that are about the right size, making sure you fill any gaps.
- If you are storing items such as lawn mowers that have fuel tanks, drain the tanks before you put them in storage. Fuel is one of the few things that you cannot store in a self-storage facility. Please ask a member of staff if you are unsure what can be safely stored.
- Wipe down metal objects and tools with oil before storing to avoid rust. Tie tools and long-handled items together
- Don't store vacuum cleaners with the bag in –throw the bag away before storing them.
- Treat leather items with a leather conditioner before you store them.

We hope these tips will help you store your belongings more safely. By thinking creatively and following our advice, you can make the most of your space and be confident that your belongings are safe and secure..... And finally for the unexpected or unavoidable we do ask that your goods are adequately insured whilst in storage – please see our Insurance page for more details