

Freight Shipping Guidelines & Packaging Essentials

1. Plan it.

LTL shipments may be up to 20,000 lbs. and 24 feet in length, and they may be exposed to variable temperature changes. Know the route to efficiently and safely prepare your shipments.

2. Prepare it.

To ensure safe and efficient shipping across town or across the country, properly organize, stack, label and prepare your freight shipments.

3. Secure it.

To protect your shipment from natural vibration and forces that occurs in transit, use proper cushioning, blocking, bracing, banding, stretchwrapping, and sturdy, standardized wood or plastic pallets.

4. Ship it.

Use visible labels to help identify special handling needs, prepare and execute the BOL with an accurate piece count and description to help ensure that your freight arrives on time, intact and complete.

Quick Tips

Freight comes in all shapes and sizes. Here are some common examples and tips to get you started.

Bagged Products



Use the interlocking stack method. Add a solid bottom cushion or load protector. Cardboard the outside of bags when possible.



Keep bags within the pallet perimeter. Tightly secure bags to the pallet.

Cartoned Shipments



Use the column or interlocking stack method. Avoid overhang to reduce the risk of damage.



Add stretchwrap for additional protection.

Shelf-Ready Cartons or Uncartoned Printed Matter



Use the column stack method.
Add corner edge-boards and top
and bottom corrugated pads.



Add stretchwrap for
additional protection.

Crates



Use quality lumber (plywood).
Use diagonal braces and
appropriate fasteners on the side
grain for corners.

Drums



If palletized, band and protect.
Support with a solid bottom.

Pails



Use banding, edge protection
and stretchwrapping. Do not
exceed three pails in height.

Spools and Reels



Securely anchor to pallets that may be forklifted.

Engines or machinery



Drain all engine fluids. Block or brace engine in a wood crate or corrugated box.



Band it securely to a pallet. Add stretchwrap for additional protection.

Pipes and Other Long Freight



Bundle, secure and crate.