Shipping Tips

When preparing for shipping, especially for trade shows or events, it's essential to choose the right method to ensure your goods arrive safely and efficiently. This document outlines two popular options for shipping: **pallets** and **crates**. Both methods have distinct advantages depending on the nature of your shipment, budget, and frequency of use.

Know the details of your shipment:

- **Dimensions of the shipment:** Measure Width x Depth x Height as accurately as possible.
- **Weight of the shipment:** Weigh individual boxes and materials and add the weight of the pallet to get an approximate total weight. Be aware that your shipment will be weighed again by the transport company, and discrepancies in weight may affect shipping costs.
- **Special requests:** Inform the shipper of any special handling requirements, such as temperature control, non-stackable items, cold storage, residential pickup or delivery, liftgate needs, etc. The more information provided, the more accurate your shipping quote will be.

Pallets – Skids

Pallets are a versatile and cost-effective solution, ideal for shipments that need to be stacked or moved quickly. They offer flexibility in packing and are easy to handle with standard equipment like forklifts and pallet jacks.

1. **Pack individual boxes with care:**
    - Choose strong, undamaged boxes that can withstand stacking.
    - Banker's boxes stack neatly, are sturdy, and have easy handles on the side.
2. **Seal each box to be palletized:**
    - Use pressure-sensitive adhesive poly-tape that is at least 3” (7.6cm) wide.
3. **Choose the right pallet:**
    - Ensure the pallet is large enough so that your boxes don’t overhang the edges.
4. **Load your pallet:**
    - Stack in columns with heavier boxes on the bottom; lighter boxes should go on top.
    - Fragile items should be placed in boxes in the center of the pallet, buffered by the outside boxes.
5. **Keep it as flat as possible:**
    - Consider covering the top with a rubber mat or carpet remnant to protect and keep dust off your boxes.
6. **Wrap your pallet with shrink wrap:**
    - Ensure the wrap covers the top as well.
7. **Label your pallet shipment clearly on all sides:**
    - Remove any previous address labels so the current address is the only one visible.

- Make sure your address label is legible.

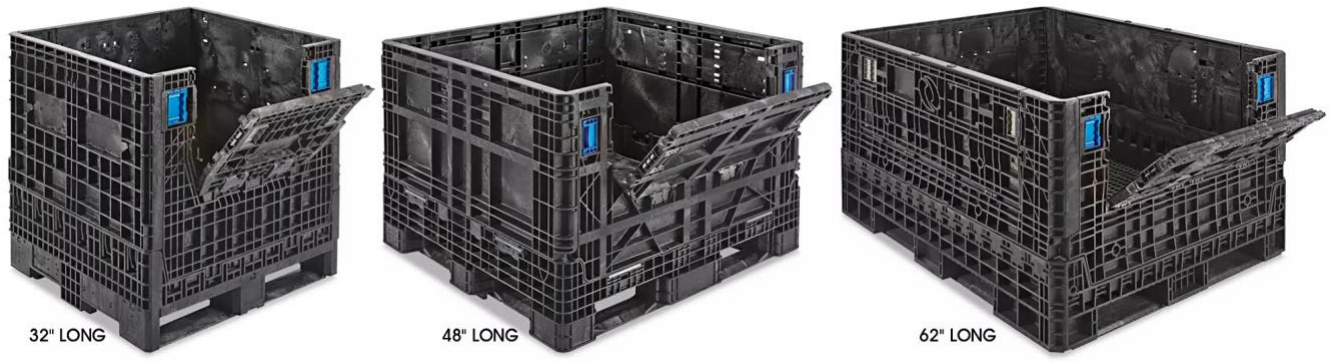
What type of packaging transportation material should be used for preparing pallets?

- Use a sturdy corrugated cardboard box for large or multiple items.
- Wrap items within the box with protective cushioning to absorb any impact during transit.
- Use materials like foam, polystyrene, newspaper, bubble wrap, or similar protective packaging.

Shipping Crates

Crates, on the other hand, provide enhanced protection and durability, especially for delicate or high-value items. Investing in custom-built crates can be a worthwhile decision if you frequently ship to shows or need to protect your goods from potential damage during transit.

- If you regularly ship to shows, consider investing in one or two crates designed for this purpose.
- These crates are extremely sturdy and easily movable with forklifts and pumpjacks. They are also stackable in a truck and can save you money. Lids for the crates are also available to allow stacking. Shrink-wrap should be used to keep the lid on during transport.
- Build a portable display that fits easily in your crate.



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