



How to Properly Package Your LTL Freight Shipments

Freight packaging best practices for a smooth road ahead!



Choose the Right Materials

The first step in protecting your freight shipping is to use the right packaging materials. Let's go over the most common materials used in LTL freight shipping and their best applications.



Foam

Great for freight that requires extra protection from vibrations and impact



Paper honeycomb

Effective in both inner and outer packaging capacities



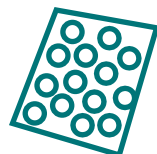
Loose fill

Like foam, loose fill such as peanuts offer shock protection



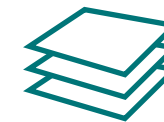
Paper pad

Blocking, filling and wrapping material used for irregularly shaped objects



Bubble wrap

Ideal for fragile and irregularly shaped objects



Slip sheets

Placed between each layer of packages on a pallet for even weight distribution



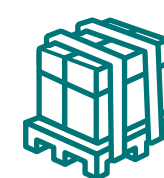
Edge boards

Stabilizes the load and reduce risk of damage to box corners



Stretch wrap

Wrapped securely around the cased goods on the pallet to secure the load



Pallet straps

Secures unit to the pallet to avoid shifting during transportation



Corrosion protection

Prevents corrosion and oxidation for non-treated metals

Stack and Secure the Pallet

Your pallet is only as good as the packages within it! Once you've secured your shipments with suitable materials, you're ready to start palletizing. Follow these best practices to prep your freight for problem-free LTL shipping.

Stack with sense

The proper pallet stacking safety protocol is to stack in a column pattern, putting the heaviest items on the bottom of the pallet. Never exceed the weight and height limitations — which may vary depending on the forklift and freight carrier.

Sheets for stability

Slip sheets, whether plastic or cardboard, should be placed between every layer of cargo in order to evenly distribute the pallet's weight.

Bundle up

Not only does bundling similar products together reduce damage potential, but it will make loading, unloading and classifying the freight much easier.

Maximum security

Use edge boards, stretch wrap and strapping to secure all cargo to the pallet. Be sure to wrap the contents tightly to ensure minimal movement.

FREIGHT SHOULD BE SHIPPED ON A STURDY PALLET WITH:

- Undamaged deck and runner boards
- No protruding nails, staples or wood splinters
- 4-way access for forklifts and pallet jacks
- Dunnage (such as cardboard) atop pallet





Label and Class Your Freight

Marking and labeling your freight communicates the proper methods of freight shipping and handling. Labels often communicate the hazards associated with the package, and markings ensure the shipment is handled so that spills, accidents and exposure are prevented.

Markings and labels must be:

1. In English and displayed on all sides of freight
2. Displayed on a background of sharply contrasting color
3. Unobscured by labels or attachments
4. Located away from any other marking (such as advertising) that could substantially reduce its effectiveness
6. Included as required (e.g., HAZMAT)



In addition to markings and labels, each freight shipment must be properly classified and contain the **Bill of Lading (BOL)**. Determining the right freight class will help your shipments steer clear of delays and unnecessary reclassification fees.

UNISHIPPERS CAN HELP YOU **DETERMINE FREIGHT CLASS** TO SAVE TIME, TROUBLE AND MONEY ON EVERY SHIPMENT!



Ready to ship your freight?

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