**Self Pack Container**

Don’t forget the containers arrive at your residence on a Chassis so the container is about 4ft off the ground. It’s a good idea to hire a walk ramp from U-Haul or a local mover or make a ramp yourself. Another popular option is to hire a local mover for a few hours to help you with the loading and request 2 men and a walk ramp. If you don’t have anything particularly heavy you can get round not having a walk ramp providing you have enough people to hand up boxes to the 1 or preferably 2 people that are stationed in the container to load and stack the items.

When the container arrives, get inside and close the doors to check there are no holes in the roof, (there should be no light coming through the roof!)

Make sure you have finished all your packing, and have done a packing list before the container arrives. It’s a good idea to have everything for loading already stationed in your garage so you can get everything loaded within the 2 hours free time. A single garage is roughly the same size as the container. If your garage is looking full, we suggest you load the container from floor to ceiling in tiers. Make sure all the items are stacked nice and tight side to side and top to bottom so that nothing can move. It’s a bit like a jigsaw, fill in all the gaps with small items. Keep the height of the load the same all the way back to the container doors. A container can sway 45 degrees in any direction on the ship and the truck driver with your container could brake suddenly, that’s why everything needs to be tight together so nothing can fall or slide. There are tie hooks in the floor and ceiling in the corners so if you have some rope, straps or webbing you can tie in place anything heavy or on wheels that could move. Use old blankets, bedding or buy moving blankets to protect furniture from rubbing together.

If you have some space at the end of the container you can build a simple bulkhead to keep everything in place with two 4x2’s that are about 8ft long. The inside of the container has a corrugated look so you can wedge the wood from the floor on one side to the roof of the other side, thus forming a large X. You can also slide 2 plywood sheets in front of the X or a mattress works well to keep everything in place.

Once you have everything loaded, secured, an accurate piece count (as per your packing list) the driver will help you shut the doors. Either you or the driver then needs to fix the security lock we sent you by pushing the pin upwards through the door latch hole and into the locking device.

Do not give the driver any paperwork or money (unless you want to give him a tip if he helped you) All paperwork needs to be emailed or faxed to our office. We have already given the trucking company the paperwork they need so if the driver asks for anything tell him to call his company or us. If you have gone over your 2 free loading hours we will be notified and will invoice you so you do not need to pay the driver anything.

Before the container departs make sure you have noted the container number and call or email that number to us asap as we need that number for paperwork to get the container into the port for the ship. Examples of container numbers are: TRLU4284746, MSKU6011672.

We hope this helps you, although it’s a lot of physical work packing and loading, just think of the thousands you are saving! Send us some pictures of your great work for our album please. Have a safe trip and Bon Voyage.

*The Upak Team*