

Wine Packing Tips and Hints

Guide and tips for shipping your wine collection safely and securely

When selecting a box to ship your wine you need to consider the thickness of the outer shell, the thickness of the separators and if you will be shipping your wine standing upright or lying flat.

The following advice applies to standard size 750ml bottles of wine. Larger formats and wine in presentation cases may require a different approach.



Figure 1 High quality upright wine box

Upright or Flat?

Older wine where you have no storage history or any ports should always be shipped upright. Also if you have riesling or other wine that is in tall bottles then you will find that the majority of flat pack boxes will not be suitable. If you have a collection of premium, good quality wine and you are certain of the purchase and storage history (provenance) and if you know it has been lying flat, undisturbed then you can confidently ship it lying flat. However, wine that has not been stored in cellar like conditions or in temperature control should be shipped standing upright as poorly stored bottles are more likely to leak if shipped lying flat.

Acceptable box types

The best sort of wine boxes are made from sturdy cardboard, either flat packs or uprights and they should be made specifically for wine bottles. Trying to use vegetable, toaster or other boxes not intended to protect and support the weight of a full bottle of wine can often have undesirable outcomes.

Polystyrene foam packers are OK for a small shipment of wine or for shipping overseas but are too bulky for moving a medium to large collection and the polystyrene itself is a very expensive option.



Figure 2 Good quality flat-pack wine box



Figure 3 Good quality, double thickness inserts

Acceptable inserts

The best inserts are separators of double thickness (for upright boxes) or the specially made cardboard inserts for flat packs. The most important thing is that the separator reaches at least to the height of the bottle and does not allow the bottles to make contact if the box were to receive a sudden change of direction.



Padding and wrapping?

Never use loose foam beading (the small micro beads) or bio-degradable packing peanuts (made from corn-starch), if condensation occurs they can breakdown, voiding the protection they confer and it can get messy, potentially staining your labels.

Loosely scrunched newspaper is ok to keep the top of the bottle from rattling around but should never be used to wrap the bottle, especially around the label.

You can wrap expensive bottles using acid and chemical free tissue paper (from a box of ordinary plain tissues will suffice, do-not use the ones with added chemicals like Aloe vera.)

*Figure 4 These types of inserts are **NOT** recommended for your expensive wines*

Warning: DONOT ship your wine during periods of sustained hot weather.

Where to get wine boxes

Local Bottle Shops

Will usually throw them out on a regular basis after a delivery day. Either call them before hand or drop in and see if they have any spare.

Australia Post

Will have the single and double packaging in most of their local post offices and a larger variety in the business centres.

Wine Storage Companies

Major wine storage specialists such as National Storage will usually stock good quality flat packs.