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# 5 Expert Tips On How To Store And Organize Travel Items



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Organizing your travel gear makes it easy to pack (and unpack) for each trip. GETTY

As much as traveling can be fun, packing (and unpacking) generally is not. In fact, for most people, that's the most dreaded part of the travel process. But it doesn't have to be. Keeping your travel gear organized makes packing much easier. "When your travel gear is organized, you can find everything

you're looking for, and on the flip side, you won't forget about that one really cool thing you bought for your next trip and stashed somewhere,” says Lucy Milligan Wahl, founder of [LMW Edits](#). “Just like anything else in life, travel is easier and more fun when you're organized and prepared. It's worth taking the time to get organized now so that your first post-pandemic trip will go smoothly.”

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## **Choose Storage Containers Wisely**





Mia 12 Drawer Rolling Storage Chest WAYFAIR

Many experts recommend clear or see-through containers for a variety of reasons. Your brain will be triggered each time you walk by—and remind you to use the gear—as opposed to keeping it out of sight and out of mind.

In addition to making sure the container is clear it's important to make sure it's the correct size. "Travel and activity gear come in all kinds of weird shapes and sizes," says. Wahl. "If you lump it all together in big bins, the small pieces fall to the bottom and basically disappear." Instead, use smaller containers to group smaller objects together.

Wayfair offers a good selection of storage and organization items. The [Mia 12 Drawer Rolling Storage](#) chest is nice because it has various size drawers, so it can fit smaller things like travel-size bug spray and travel documents in the top drawers and medium-size items like hiking socks and binoculars in the larger drawers. The clear plastic makes it easy to see what's inside, and the two handles and wheels make it easy to move it around.

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Darla 3 Drawer Storage Chest WAYFAIR

If you're looking for something smaller, the [Darla 3 Drawer Chest](#) is ideal. Its height makes it great for the younger set (kids are never too young to learn how to store their own travel gear), and the rolling casters make it easy to move—and lock in place—when needed. The top plate can hold up to 11 pounds, and each drawer can hold between four and five pounds.

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Another option is stand-alone storage units that look nice and can be part of the room's décor.

“Any furniture piece can be a good foundation for organization,” says Ría Safford, founder of [RíOrganize](#). It is how you implement organizers within those units and label each section that take an organization system to the next level and make it far easier to maintain.”





Zoe 4 Drawer Storage Chest WAYFAIR

The [Zoe 4 Drawer](#) is made from bamboo and adds a little style to your storage area. It's good for storing lightweight items (like goggles, sunglasses, and travel toiletries). The removable drawers make it easy to pack and unpack items.

In terms of stand-alone units, often they are vertical, which means they maximize space. “Additionally, they keep all items centrally located in one area of the home,” says Marie Jackson, owner of [Organized Marie](#). “Standalone units make it easy to get what’s needed, and more importantly, make it easy to put items back.”





4 Drawer Wood Top Dresser Storage Table Organizer Unit MDESIGN

The [4 Drawer Organizer Unit](#) by [mDesign](#) is a vertical storage tower with a steel frame, wood top, and removable drawers. The nice thing about the vertical design is it's easy to fit into most locations—a closet, corner of the room, or in the hallway—so it doesn't take up much space, but offers plenty of storage inside. It's ideal for smaller homes, such as a cozy apartment. The plastic feet are a nice touch, so the floors don't get scratched.



7 Drawer Wide Storage Dresser Organizer with Wood Shelf MDESIGN

The **7 Drawer Dresser** has easy pull fabric bins, and the larger size is ideal for storing gear and clothes in one spot. Swimsuits and beachwear can go in one of the larger drawers, and goggles, sunglasses, and sunscreen can go in one of the smaller ones. You can also separate winter and summer travel gear. The wood top is nice for folding items before storing them. The elevated side handles make it portable and easy to move around.



5 Drawer Wide Fabric Storage Dresser Organizer MDESIGN

The **5 Drawer Storage** organizer is especially good for younger kids, as it sits low to the ground, so it's easy to open and close drawers. The larger bottom drawers are good for jackets, fleeces, and bulkier items, while the top drawers are good for travel clothes.



Here are other tips from the experts on storing your travel gear.

## **Make Sure You Like the Look of the Container**

Don't buy a storage container that you think is practical, but you don't really like. "You need to make sure that you love looking at what you are buying," says Jackson. "When you love it, you're more likely to keep using it."

## **Remember to Purge**

"Be aware of items you packed for a trip and never used," says Safford. It may be time to purge that accessory. That way, your storage gear area is only full of must-have things. It will streamline the space and keep your gear clutter-free.

## **Label Everything**

Not using labels is a common mistake. "Labels keep things in the right places, and without them, things are often misplaced," says Jackson. Even if the container is see-through, labels are essential. If the item does not fit the label, it shouldn't go in that drawer or container.

## **Store Your Travel Gear in the Right Spot**

"Unless you are quite literally packing a suitcase on a weekly basis, I don't recommend storing travel gear in your closet or bedroom," says Wahl.

"That's valuable real estate that's better used for things you wear and use all the time." Instead, she recommends devoting one particular storage area in your home to travel gear. Ideally, this would be a finished area, rather than a garage or attic. "This is because those spaces often experience extreme temperatures, moisture, and critters of all kinds, and travel gear is often made out of materials that are vulnerable to extended exposure to that kind of environment."

Check out my *website*.



**Judy Koutsky**

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