To Cure Travel Blues - You Can Make Packing Fun

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To Cure Travel Blues—
You Can Make Packing Fun

by Patricia Close

Trunks, suitcases and boxes are coming out of closets. Campus houses are teeming with activity. Iowa State co-eds are going home!

Whether it be for a week-end visit, a trip home or a summer excursion to Europe, the process of packing requires undaunted courage, engineering and patience. The formula RL + CC + P = NP, right luggage + correct clothes + plan = neat packing, will put an end to your packing blues. You don't need college mathematics to solve for the correct answer.

Packing can be fun.

Your equipment need not be elaborate but it should serve your purpose. The usual college luggage consists of one large trunk, a wardrobe, overnight and cosmetic cases. Suitcases with hangers, compartments and pockets aid in organization, according to Miss Marquita Irland of the Department of Home Management. She considers her knitting bag the perfect place for everything she can't get into her suitcases. If you are forced to rely on cardboard boxes, fill them with articles which can be shipped ahead of you without danger of breakage.

Overnight Bag

If it's an overnight stay, keep the luggage to a minute minimum. A cosmetic case is sufficient for the bare necessities—pajamas, soap, towel, washcloth, bobby pins, comb and tooth brush. Leave all those bottles of beauty preparations and extra clothes at home. Especially if it's a dormitory or sorority you're visiting, think of the limited closet, hanger and dresser space. A considerate guest will be invited again.

One larger bag is better than several small ones. If you're going home for a few days, take your wardrobe bag, but plan the things you are going to do and include only the most appropriate clothes. If you love to rough it with the gang, include one pair of slacks with a few changes in blouses and sweaters. Or if your crowd loves teas and bridge parties, one afternoon dress will do. A suit may be worn for both dressy and semi-dressy occasions, dates and church. Remember the home town doesn't expect to see your new college wardrobe; they're glad to see YOU!

Shoe Cases

Hats, purses and shoes consume the most space in your suitcase. Janet Adams, textiles and clothing major, uses shoe bags which have a draw string at the top to separate shoes from clothes. Wear what you can, pack the rest, but beware of those numerous shoe and hat boxes that are a mark of an amateur traveler.

Timing is an important factor. It's never too soon to begin to wash, press, mend and fix all those clothes you count on taking. Reserving a special corner of your closet or room for hanging the things which are ready to go eliminates much confusion.

Carry a list, jotting down those essential items that occur to you from time to time.

After all your preparations are made wait to pack until a day or two before leaving. Nothing can completely ruin a good job of packing faster than digging to the bottom of a bag for an article which you wish to use just once more. Joan Droegemueller, applied art freshman, plans her packing according to the articles in each dresser and bureau drawer. For instance, she analyzes how much lingerie she will take according to the length of her visit and has a specific place for each type of apparel. A modified filing system such as this is always effective.

Large, seldom-used articles belong in the trunk and wardrobe case, while the things that will be needed immediately should go into the overnight bag and cosmetic case. A list, written as each article is packed, may be placed inside the suitcase and re-checked as you repack for your return trip. This puts an end to the embarrassment and annoyance of leaving something behind.

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