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Blueprint For Packing

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THE GIRL who has never had to sit on her suitcase to close it or who has never found clothes peeking out the edges may not be a rarity, but neither is she the average college packer. But she isn’t even getting the most usable space out of her suitcase with a minimum of wrinkles.

For most short trips, a 24-inch or 29-inch suitcase is plenty for one person. With some planning, it will hold everything needed. First equip yourself with plenty of white tissue paper and lay out everything before you begin packing. Keep your clothes fresh and pretty by arranging them in layers which can be lifted out in one piece.

**Bottom Layer**

The bottom layer is the spot for heavy articles and odd-shaped, hard-to-pack items. Shoes can be slipped into plastic bags or cotton knit covers to separate them from clean clothes and placed at one end of the suitcase. At the opposite end, cosmetics carefully wrapped in plastic bags as a guard against leakage, help balance the suitcase. You may want to use small bottles to fill up the space inside your shoes. Nylons and underthings find their place next to the cosmetics. The remainder of the space can be used for jewelry cases, extra gloves, blouses and playclothes.

If your hat is packable, help it keep its shape by folding scarves and gloves into it. A typical feminine trick, this one: cut off the ends of an unwearable pair of hose and slip your rolled-up petticoat through for a compact package. These can go in the bottom layer along the front or back of the suitcase. Blouses will stay fresh if they are folded over a lightweight cardboard and slipped into a plastic bag to keep them smooth and clean. Although it isn’t absolutely necessary, it’s fun to tuck tiny sachets among your clothes to keep them fresh and lovely.

**Second Layer**

If this first layer is built up evenly, it will provide a flat shelf for dresses and suits. In packing the second layer always remember to cover as much of the suitcase as possible. Fold your dresses, skirts and jackets over tissue paper to prevent wrinkling. Remember that to do the job the tissues must be a part of the fold and not simply a flat piece of paper between your dresses. To keep the layers even, fill extra space at the ends of the suitcase with flat accessories such as gloves, scarves and handkerchiefs.

If you are packing a dress which won’t be worn right away, wrap it carefully in paper and seal the edges with tape. This allows it to be unpacked many times without folding and unfolding. Jackets should be packed face down with sleeves and tail folded back. Tissue paper may be stuffed in the shoulders to keep lapels, collar and shoulder pads smooth.

**Third Layer**

The third layer of your suitcase wardrobe should hold only the things you’ll be needing frequently. Your pajamas or gown, robe, slippers and a cardigan sweater fall into this category as well as rainy weather equipment.

When unpacking, don’t just burrow into the suitcase! Simply lift each layer out in one piece—repack them several times without unfolding.

To stay well-dressed and well-pressed on your next trip, whether it be your honeymoon or a family excursion, the secret is your “blueprint” for packing.