



How to Pack a Pallet Box

Materials:

- DuraGreen Plastic Pallet Pack Container
- Polyethylene sheeting
- Silica gel
- Foam (if needed)
- Coroplast, twinwall polyethylene, no processing, 6mm (if needed)

At The Henry Ford, we use plastic pallet boxes because they are stackable, have a high weight rating, and provide the best protection for bulk artifact storage. Pallet boxes let us move many artifacts at a time in the safest way possible.

First we line the pallet boxes with polyethylene sheeting to ensure that no water gets in. This is important for creating a microclimate for the artifacts. Microclimates are necessary to protect artifacts sensitive to humidity and temperature changes.

Next, the boxes can be placed inside. Custom boxes ensure there is very little empty space in the pallet. The lack of extra space helps keep the boxes in place, even during a bumpy ride off site. If there are spaces, they are filled with foam to prevent shifting. When packing many heavy artifacts, a bottom layer of boxes with the same height will give more support to the objects on the next layer and more evenly distribute the weight. Scraps of coroplast can be placed between the layers to reinforce the lids and provide even more support.

Silica gel is another element to add to the pallet boxes. Silica gel is a buffering agent, meaning it will help regulate the amount of humidity within the pallet box, further contributing to a stable microclimate. It is important to include, especially if artifacts are sensitive to rapid humidity changes. We generally add four packets to each pallet box.

Once everything is in place, the plastic sheeting can be folded over and the lid locked in place. Each pallet box is labeled and its total weight recorded. Pallet boxes can then be easily moved to storage, even with only one person!