



5 Packing Tips for Any Trip

While each of us has our own peculiarities about what we *must* have on a trip, here are five tips for things to pack that will make your next trip much easier when you arrive at your destination.

1. **Pack several dryer sheets in a ziploc bag.** Dryer sheets are wonderful for a quick odor destroyer. If your hotel room has a strange smell, placing a sheet on the air conditioner blower can help deodorize the room. Dryer sheets are also great for when, on your return trip, you have a suitcase of mixed dirty and clean clothes. Unfolding a sheet or two and putting them with the dirty clothes can help minimize the odor transfer to your clean clothes, jackets, scarves, or other items in your suitcase.
2. **Pack several small reusable bags.** If you've got small plastic shopping bags that need to be recycled, they can be very useful in your luggage before you recycle them. We use them to wrap shoes before putting them into our luggage so the street grime on the bottom of our shoes doesn't rub up against other things in the suitcase. These bags are also a great place to store dirty underwear while traveling, so it's separated from the rest of the things in your bag. Best of all, it's an easy, no-cost organizing tool that doesn't add weight to you luggage.
3. **Make your own wrinkle release spray.** If you're like us and hate a suitcase full of wrinkled clothes when you arrive at your destination, here's a refresh tip that beats needing to drag out the ironing board. There are commercial wrinkle release sprays available in travel-size bottles at most drug stores, but you can also easily make your own. Simple buy yourself a travel-sized spray pump bottle and pour in enough liquid fabric softener to fill the bottom of the bottle about 1/16 of the way. Don't worry about the exact proportions – simply eyeball it. When you get to your destination, fill the rest of the bottle with water, and shake to mix. (Don't add the water until you get there to save on packing weight in your luggage.) That's it. Spray it on wrinkled areas of your clothes and then grab the garment on either side of the sprayed area and give it a couple of sharp tugs. Many wrinkles will fall out and your clothes will smell like they've been freshly laundered. *Caution: Don't use it on fabrics that won't react well to water, such as silk.*
4. **Pack an extension cord with three-prong inputs.** Unfortunately, not every hotel or rental apartment has electrical sockets in the most convenient spots. That's why we always pack an extension cord. Make sure your extension cord has inputs for three prongs, so that things like computers or other electronics that have that third grounding prong can still be plugged in where you need them, even if the wall socket does not. We do not suggest *power strips* if you're traveling overseas, as their surge protectors can sometimes get wonky with the different currents in other countries.
5. **Don't forget those adapters and converters, if you're traveling overseas.** Taking electronics to another country requires two considerations: do I have a necessary converter (to deal with the different level of electronic current) and do I have the right plug adapter (so that I can actually connect to the wall if they use a different socket shape)? Converters are available on Amazon or anywhere else you buy your travel gear. Just make sure it converts to the electric current you need in the country you are visiting. Check here for [a list of voltages by country](#). To figure out what shape electric socket the country uses, to make sure you have the correct adaptor, check out this [list of plug types](#) that includes pictures of each shape of socket.