

Published based on [Packing For A Family Vacation Without Worry](#)

Packing For A Family Vacation Without Worry

Vacations are so exciting. The preparation part, however, is not. Getting passports, packing your bags, and arranging for a house sitter can be stressful. Nevertheless, you needn't worry. A little advice can go a long way when it comes to preparing for a trip. If you can't find your passport, you can get an [expedited US passport renewal](#) for a little extra cash. However, having the peace of mind that your passport is ready to go can be a huge relief when everything else is stressing you out.

Even if you aren't going out of the country, keeping your passport with you is always a good idea. A passport is a good form of identification, and if your wallet or purse gets stolen, it will prove to be an irreplaceable lifeline. If the dog ate your passport, consider a [damaged U.S. passport replacement](#). You're going to have to do it eventually, so do it now so you don't have to worry about it later.

Over packing is so easy to do, and you should do your best not to. When you're walking fifteen blocks to your hotel and you're carrying seven bags full of every outfit you own, you will come to appreciate the notion of packing light. First, relax, sit down, and start a check list. Write down everything, no matter how obvious it is, and don't forget the important stuff, like your passport, travel itinerary, social security card, and all that. It's generally not a good idea to stuff things into your bag as you think of them, as this could have you panicked and scrambling for your ticket at the airport.

What will the weather be like on your trip? What kind of activities will you be doing? Where will you be staying? These are all important questions to consider when packing, as they can heavily affect exactly what you bring. For example, for a beach trip, you are definitely going to want to bring sunglasses, sunscreen, a cover-up, flip-flops, as well as your bathing suit. If it's going to be 90 degrees, you would want to bring tank tops and shorts. If you're going to be hiking, you'll need a good pair of walking shoes and a backpack. Knowing specifically what you will need prevents any last-minute panic attacks when you are met with an unexpected rainstorm in sunny Florida.

Try to get the travel-sized versions of all your toiletries, especially if you're flying. Toiletries take up huge amounts of space and are prone to explosions or leaks. You will most likely be able to run into a grocery store or a drug store to replenish your supply if you run out.

Take the time to scan and make copies of all your important travel documents. This includes everything like your passport, your hotel reservation, important phone numbers, social security card, driver's license, insurance information, and anything else you deem important. After you scan them, email them to yourself so they are easily accessible. Print copies and leave these with family members or the house sitter so someone always knows where you are.

All that's left is squeezing all your stuff into your bag. Consider every piece of clothing carefully and leave out anything you won't need. Make sure you have your passports, and if not, invest in an [expedited passport renewal](#) or a damaged passport replacement. Now that you are all set, relax and enjoy your vacation.

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