

How to store items properly in Self-Storage:

Top tips for your Zebrabox storage unit

A long-awaited trip around the world, a semester abroad, renovations or simply not enough space at home – there are many reasons to need extra storage space. Self-storage is a flexible and secure solution for storing furniture, boxes and personal belongings. The key is to store everything properly, safely and efficiently.

Using Self-Storage – what to keep in mind:

Storage unit size

With self-storage, every square metre counts – so plan the storage space ☞ you need well in advance!

Important: When using a self-storage unit, plan which items you'll access often and which you won't. Frequently used items need clear paths and space, while rarely used ones can be packed tightly to maximise storage.

Useful tips: Frequently used items, such as summer or winter clothing, should be stored at the front of your storage unit so that you can access them easily later on. Rule of thumb: the smallest Zebrabox XXXS ☞ is 1 x 1 x 1 metre. Depending on their size, several moving boxes can fit inside. If you need more space because you're subletting your apartment or renovations are taking longer than expected, larger storage units are also available.

Zebrabox tip: Worried you won't have enough space?! Many first-time self-storage users overestimate how much space they need and end up requiring less than expected. So, it's always best to ask if you are unsure and get advice on site to avoid being left with too much empty space!

Security

Even valuable items can be stored safely, provided you have valid insurance and the unit is under constant surveillance. Security is one of the most important factors when deciding where to store your belongings.

Important: Ideally the storage unit is individually alarmed and the building is under 24/7 video surveillance.

Zebrabox tip: In addition to security and a 24-hour service, cleanliness and dryness are essential. Storage units should be dry, well ventilated and, if possible, temperature-controlled. This helps prevent materials such as wood, paper, cardboard or fabrics from becoming mouldy or damaged.

Access

Being open 365 days a year is very important when it comes to self-storage. You often need something at the most inconvenient time – for example, an old photo album at Christmas or your grandmother's coffee set during a surprise visit. Access should therefore be simple.

Important: Ideally, your storage unit should be accessible 365 days a year, with straightforward access.

Useful tips: You can even rent a self-storage unit for just a short period. Some have minimum rental periods of seven days or less, others start from four weeks. But these rules are not always fixed - it's best to ask. Flexible cancellation terms are an advantage.

Zebrabox tip: To ensure that you can access your personal belongings that are in temporary storage ☞ at any time, individual electronic access is usually provided.

Storing furniture and large items

That trendy but cumbersome chest of drawers from the flea market, your mountain bike, summer or winter tyres, garden furniture, a fridge – there are a few tricks to making sure that everything fits in your storage unit.

Important: Before storing your washing machine, fridge or freezer, make sure that you switch them off, take everything out (double-check!), give them a thorough clean and let them dry completely. Leave fridge doors open to prevent mould and bad odours. To save space, stand bed frames, garden benches, tables upright. Collapse fold-up furniture and stack boxes. Dismantle wardrobes, beds and other large furniture, put the screws and hinges in a resealable zip-lock bag and attach the bag to the inner surface or inside a drawer with masking tape. Never put masking tape directly on furniture, as it can leave residue or damage surfaces. If you want to store furniture or larger items temporarily, an external storage unit ^{GO} is an ideal solution.

Useful tips: Protect upholstered furniture and mattresses from dust by covering or wrapping them. If stacking items on top, place a wooden board underneath to avoid pressure marks.

Zebrabox tip: Moving items in and out is easier if the storage unit is at ground level or has a goods lift or loading ramp. Check the ceiling height and door width to ensure all items fit in easily and without damage.

Odds and ends

From the Barbie collection that brings back your childhood memories to your ski equipment – you can put pretty much anything you want in your storage unit. However, there are exceptions.

Important: Dangerous, illegal or easily flammable substances are not permitted. As a rule of thumb: if it poses a risk, it cannot be stored. This includes explosive or highly flammable materials. For example, if storing a lawn mower, remove all fuel and ensure the tank is completely dry.

Useful tips: Mirrors, picture frames, standing lamps and other delicate items should be wrapped in bubble wrap to protect them from possible damage. Packaging material ^{GO} and protective covers are often available to buy on site! Pad out boxes with fragile items such as crockery and glassware using filling material. Do not overpack boxes. Tyres and carpets should also be wrapped in plastic.

Zebrabox tip: Put heavy boxes, chests, sideboards and other small furniture at the bottom. Make use of all available space and avoid placing bulky, heavy items at the front so you can still reach what's behind them later.

Clothes, books and other delicate items

A storage unit is ideal for seasonal items ^{GO} such as summer or winter clothes, ski equipment, cushions, blankets or baby items.

Important: Store suits in special clothes boxes with hanging rails. More durable textiles can be packed in vacuum bags to save space. Fold towels, bed linen and curtains and store them in drawers or suitcases. Always wash and dry textiles before storing.

Useful tips: Books should always be packed lying flat to protect their spines. Don't overpack boxes with books, photo albums or folders and always place them at the bottom.

Zebrabox tip: The more boxes you have, the quicker chaos sets in. Number each box (use a marker pen!) and create an inventory list of what each box contains. This helps you stay organised and reduces stress.