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Overseas Shipping Container Checklist

Make an inventory list

Although we will create an inventory list of every item we pack for shipping, it's a good plan to make your own inventory list before we arrive, so that you have an idea of how much is going to be packed, and so you can take stock of anything that you'd like to keep on you for the move. Cross check your list with that of the shipper's and make sure everything lines up.

Consider container consolidation

If you don't have enough to fill up an entire shipping container, look into consolidating your items to go in a group-shipping container. Your items will be carefully packed and labeled in crates, which will then be combined in containers with other people's cargo, effectively allowing you to split the cost of a container.

Insure the cargo

Be sure that you have the proper insurance in place for your items. Although rare, accidents can happen, and shipping containers, depending on the final destination, can be exposed to extreme weather, temperatures, and the bumps and jolts that always accompany a move. Insuring everything properly beforehand is a smart step.

Declare organic cargo

If you are planning on taking any kind of plant, edible or not, with you, you need to be sure that you've declared it ahead of time. If your container gets to customs and you've failed to do so, your container can be quarantined and held, with you incurring storage fees.

Check import tax or duties

Vehicles are commonly shipped overseas in shipping containers, but you need to do a little research on your destination country before the move to make sure you're prepared for any

taxes that may be imposed. While most countries will allow you to bring your vehicle, many of them will have strict import regulations that will end up costing you in the form of taxes or duties. How much you end up paying depends on the type of vehicle and age, and regulations vary widely from country to country. Check also if there are any exceptions that would possibly allow you to bypass this tax, such as military status or permanent resident status.

□ **Get all of your documentation together**

Before you send your shipment using ocean freight, there are a few things you'll need to get together first. Make sure that you have hard copies of the following on hand:

- Copy of passport(s)
- Custom forms
- Insurance forms
- Inventory list
- Booking forms