



Get organized to pack for the Olympics or elsewhere

February 12, 8:45 AM [Get Organized Examiner](#) ▪ Vicki Hancock

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Olympic speedskater Clara Hughes packed light for the Winter 2010 Games
AP Photo/The Canadian Press, Darryl Dyck

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Sometimes the most challenging part of a trip - whether to the Olympics or elsewhere - is all the preparation required just to get to your destination. And, with today's restrictions imposed by the airlines, packing for long-distance travel is more challenging than it's ever been. If packing your stuff for air travel isn't your idea of a good time, here are some tips to minimize the challenge:

If it's possible for you to pack everything into one bag to carry on, do it. You will maneuver the airport, navigate through your destination, and minimize wait time both going and returning. And, even if you just can't get everything into one carry-on bag, you can still benefit from the following guidelines.

Meghan Casserly of Forbes Magazine is a one-bag advocate. Her article, "Pack Everything You Need in One Bag," illustrates in a [series of helpful captioned photos](#) how to think about your packing project. Some items from her checklist:

- Make a packing list and stick to it
- Be product-conscious to minimize weight and volume
- Maximize carrying capacity, especially when packing winter-weight clothes
- Pack in a single palette for easy mixing and matching, and using unique accent pieces to add interest
- Keep footwear to a minimum, and wear your workout shoes to the airport
- Pack for double duty, keeping basics to a minimum
- For women, "be a lady" - use accessories to make your wardrobe more versatile

Need more ideas? Doug Dyment has created the [OneBag](#) web site, devoted to "the art and science of traveling light," and it's chock-full of great tips and guidelines designed to minimize your packing stress and ultimately lighten your travel load.

Got tried-and-true packing tips of your own? Share them here. And, click on the "subscribe" link above this article to be notified of future "Get Organized" stories

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