

# Shipping Plastic Totes

When preparing for an upcoming Permanent Change of Station (PCS) move, there are certain things that need to be considered when shipping plastic totes. Many people have invested a considerable amount of time and money getting organized prior to an upcoming move, and as a result, have accumulated plastic totes. Customers should be aware that these containers can be used when relocating. Just make sure that these simple rules are followed.

Since there is no “packed by owner” permitted on military shipments, and the carrier assumes liability for whatever they pack, the carrier has the right to inspect all items and should be using the appropriate carton(s) to pack all items (i.e., clothes go in wardrobe boxes), thereby affording items the proper protection. Shipping offices should ensure that items are shipped in sealed cartons for stacking in trucks/crates and avoid pilferage. Therefore, one of two things must occur:



1. Let the carrier pack all contents in cartons and then stack the totes/tubs separately for onward movement or
2. Let the member provide an already-packed tote/tub. The carrier will then inspect and decide the following:
  - Empty the tote/tub and place its contents in a carton, or
  - Ship the tote/tub as is with contents. It will be the carrier’s responsibility to ensure the tote/tub is adequately protected for safe movement. Tape **may not** be placed directly on the tote/tub. The intent is that at no time will any adhesive touch the tote/tub.

Note: the above decision is at the carrier’s discretion. Service members/employees cannot insist that the contents must remain in the tote/tub, since the carrier assumes liability for the tote/tub and the contents.

Additionally, when items are destined for permanent storage, non-temporary storage (NTS), the use of plastic containers (Rubbermaid or similar) shall not be used.

If you have any questions regarding the movement of totes, call or visit your local personal property counselor.