



Your Self Storage Guide:

Everything You Need to Know About Storing
Your Possessions at a Professional Facility



If you, like many Americans, have more stuff than you know what to do with, you may need a little extra space to keep your excess possessions securely stored.

When the basement is full, and the garage won't do, there is only one option left: self-storage. At self-storage facilities, tenants pay monthly rates to keep belongings in protected units of various sizes and configurations. Many people use self-storage for big-ticket items, such as furniture, automobiles, and sports equipment they may be unwilling to part with. Others use self-storage to house overflow belongings of all kinds, including

clothing, household items, documents, seasonal items, and more.

If you are considering self-storage, there are a number of things you should know before settling on a facility and unit in your area. In this guide, our experts here at Price Self Storage cover them all. Read on to learn more about self-storage, its many benefits, and everything else you need to know about storing your possessions in a self-storage unit

What is Self Storage?

Self-storage can best be thought of as rental property for items instead of people.

Self-storage facilities are special complexes with a host of units designed to hold belongings of all shapes and sizes. Most units are simple indoor spaces with padlocked doors, some offer climate-controlled options with humidity and temperature regulation, and others can house larger vehicles. Owners of the stored items, the self-storage “tenants,” pay a month-to-month or bi-annual fee based on the size of their units and the amenities offered.

Why Self Storage?

Self-storage is used by millions of homeowners and business owners worldwide.

For both homeowners and business owners, self-storage can be a temporary solution to store excess belongings during a move. It can also serve as a more permanent possession repository.

Homeowners and rental tenants alike often accumulate more possessions than they can reasonably keep in their places of residence. Rather than getting rid of these items, many residents turn to self-storage and as economic and space-saving solution. Husbands with hobbies, wives with overflowing closets, and kids who’ve outgrown last season’s clothes and toys all provide excellent reasons to invest in self-storage.

For business owners, self-storage is an excellent way to store items that may not see daily or even monthly use.

Self-storage units are also an affordable solution for storing excess inventory, signs, seasonal decorations, and more, allowing business owners to keep their storefronts and offices clean and clutter-free.



The Many Benefits of Self Storage

If you have decided that self-storage is the right choice for you, the next step is finding the perfect facility and unit for your needs. Use the following tips to choose the perfect self-storage solution for your needs.

START WITH SPACE

Space is perhaps the most important factor to consider when choosing a storage unit. Before visiting facilities, take a rough inventory of the things you plan on storing. That should give you an idea of the storage dimensions you need. When picking the unit itself, always plan to give yourself room to walk around and reach your belongings. Try to err on the smaller side to avoid overpaying for space you're not using.



PRIORITIZE SECURITY

No matter what you're storing, the last thing you want is for it to be stolen. To reduce the likelihood of this happening, it's important to pick a storage unit and facility with as much protection as possible. Look for facilities with tall fences, gates, a surveillance system, and a site manager on duty. Make sure the unit you're getting has thick walls, a strong door, fire prevention hardware, and the capacity to handle a heavy-duty lock. Some facilities take door security to the next level by requiring a high quality cylinder lock instead of padlocks.

CHECK YOUR UNIT AND FACILITY'S CONDITION

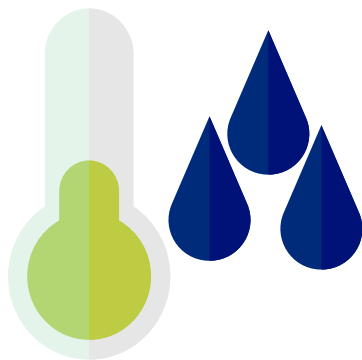
A well-maintained self-storage facility is a sign of trustworthiness and overall convenience. Premises that are well-kept, routinely inspected, illuminated, staffed, and mostly filled with storage tenants are much more likely to be good places to store your belongings. Conversely, facilities with structural damage, general mess, poor lighting, no regular personnel onsite, and lots of empty units, can often signal issues and hassle for storage tenants.



Searching for a Unit: Things to Consider

ASK ABOUT AMENITIES AND HOURS

Many of today's self-storage facilities offer a host of amenities that make life easier for their tenants. These amenities can include onsite moving staff, packing supplies, complimentary locks, drive-up units, package acceptance, and more. Some self-storage facilities allow tenants to access their units 24/7 while others do not. It's a good idea to ask about hours and amenities before settling on a self-storage facility.



CONSIDER CLIMATE CONTROL

Are you storing particularly temperature- or humidity-sensitive items? You may want to consider a climate-controlled self-storage unit. Climate-controlled self-storage units are equipped with indoor controls to regulate temperature and humidity. Though they are typically more expensive, they are often the only choice for items such as artwork, musical instruments, and antique wood furniture.

DON'T GET CAUGHT UP ON LOCATION

At first thought, you might be tempted to choose a self-storage facility located as close as possible to your home or business. While this isn't a bad idea if you're going to access your unit frequently, you don't want to limit yourself to only the closest facilities. By casting a wider net, you may find a much nicer facility only 10 or 15 minutes further from your home or business.



What Storage Unit Size Do I Need?

Determining what size storage unit you need for your belongings is equal parts science and sophisticated guesswork. While you can't really be sure how your belongings will fit in a unit until after you've put them in one, you can estimate.

Make a detailed list of the items you plan on storing and, if time and space permit, gather them all in a single room (or two) on your property. This will help you get a better idea of the square footage and height you will need for your storage unit. (Always remember: choose a unit with enough room leftover for you to walk in and access your items.) You can also use a Storage Size Guide to learn more about self-storage unit dimension and the number of items they can fit.



Moving Into Your Storage Unit: What to Expect

Once you've rented your storage unit, it's time to move in your belongings. Other than facility hours of operation, there are no restrictions on when you can move your items into storage. It's a good idea to figure out driving logistics beforehand. We recommend choosing a facility with drive-up access, so you can unload right next to the entrance of your unit. You can also call ahead to speak with an onsite manager about moving help or hire a third party moving team

Storing Your Possessions: Tips and Tricks

Moving your belongings into storage doesn't have to be a struggle. Follow these tips and tricks to maximize space and keep your items secure.



INVEST IN QUALITY PACKING MATERIALS

Having the right packing materials is essential for any storage configuration.

Must-haves include bubble wrap, newspaper, packing tape (not masking tape, duct tape, or painter's tape), and boxes. Make sure your boxes are uniformly sized to ensure easy stacking and optimize space usage.



DISASSEMBLE WHENEVER POSSIBLE

Items that can be taken apart—such as tables, beds, and lawnmowers—should be disassembled before storage. This will allow you to better protect each part and will free up space in general.



PACK FOR PROTECTION

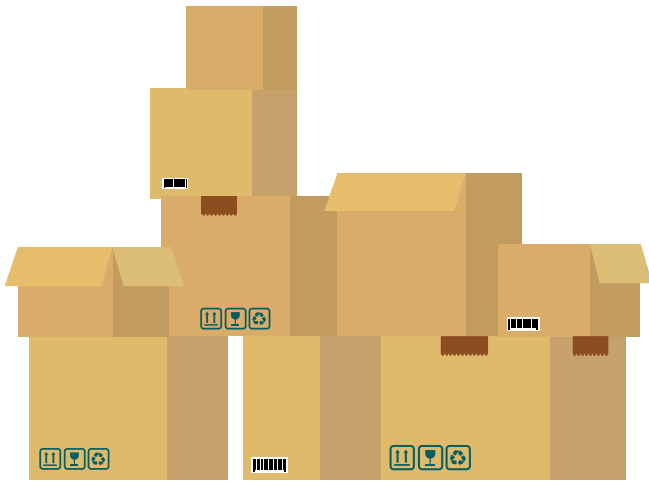
Once you do begin packing, always take measures to protect your belongings. For particularly fragile items, this means wrapping them in bubble wrap and cushioning them in boxes with newspaper, clothing, or other soft items. (Remember: don't use newsprint to pack anything that could be stained by ink.)



STACK BASED ON FRAGILITY AND WEIGHT

When storing your items in your self-storage unit, stack boxes based on fragility and weight. Boxes full of heavier, more durable items should go on the bottom, while boxes with lighter, more fragile items should be placed towards the top.

Storing Your Possessions: Tips and Tricks



STORE BASED ON ACCESSIBILITY

As you arrange your items in your storage unit, leave a path (or two) for yourself. Put the items you think you'll be accessing most frequently in an easily accessible spot. You'll avoid having to dig through half your unit every time you visit.



DON'T BE SHY ASK FOR ASSISTANCE

Trying to pack, move, and store items on your own can be an incredibly time-consuming process. Worse, lifting heavy objects by yourself can result in injury. To save time and prevent injury, ask for help during your move. If you can't recruit friends or family, hire a moving company in your area.



INVENTORY AND LABEL

As you pack your boxes, it's a good idea to inventory all items to avoid losing track of them. Fill boxes categorically while still taking care to pack for protection. (For example: don't just throw all of your kitchen items into a single box. Wrap dishes and other housewares individually and cushion them with placemats, towels, and other soft kitchen items.) Once you've filled a box, remember to label it.

Drop-Off and Pick-Up at Your Storage Unit: How it Works

Item drop-off and pick-up at your storage unit should be conducted according to the facility's business hours. Many sites operate 24/7 to meet the diverse schedules of their clientele. If you're a night owl or early-morning person, it's best to choose a self-storage facilities open 24 hours a day. Many facilities will have reasonable access hours that are not 24/7 in order to provide the most secure environment. It is often in the best interest of all tenants not

to allow people on the property late at night or very early in the morning . Most facilities don't require you to call ahead when picking up or dropping off items, but it's a good idea to do so if you're going to require the assistance of onsite staff. When entering your facility, you may be expected to use a card or key in a code at the gate. You may need to ask the manager to unlock your unit, or you may be responsible for the key/code to your own unit's door. This varies by storage company.



The Many Benefits of Self Storage

Still on the fence about self-storage? Here are just a few reasons why investing in a self-storage unit for your belongings may be the right choice for you.

SECURITY

You may think that your belongings are safest at your home or business. While our primary properties can be safe, they often do not have security measures commensurate to the best self-storage facilities. At a reputable self-storage facility, your belongings are kept behind a locked door in a well-lit, well-staffed facility complete with surveillance, a fence, and an additional gate. In many cases, your items are actually more secure in self-storage than they are at work or at home.



ACCESSIBILITY AND EASE OF USE

The best of the best self-storage facilities make it as easy as possible to store and access your belongings. Amenities, including moving assistance, drive-up units, and 24/7 accessibility, allow tenants a wide range of flexibility and comfort when storing and accessing items. Many storage facilities also offer a wide range of storage unit sizes and options — including climate-controlled storage, vehicle parking, and more — to meet the individual needs of their clientele.

AFFORDABILITY

Whether you're a homeowner or a business owner, the last thing you need is a host of excess belongings taking up precious square footage. Self-storage provides an affordable solution by allowing you to keep your belongings and have room for more important things in your home or business.



PRICE SELF STORAGE: Southern California's Premier Self Storage Provider

Searching for high-quality self-storage at highly-affordable rates? If you live in Southern California, there is no better choice than our Price Self Storage facilities.

With locations spanning from Santee to Culver City, we've become one of the region's most-trusted names in self-storage.

Our secure facilities offer a number of self-storage options with excellent amenities, including:

- Onsite staff
- Drive-up access
- Climate-controlled units
- Packing supplies available for purchase
- Free truck & driver to move-in*



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AND BUSINESS OWNERS

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