

15 THINGS I NEVER PACK FOR A FAMILY VACATION anymore

+ WHAT I BRING INSTEAD



01 AN OUTFIT FOR EVERY SINGLE DAY



I used to pack one outfit per day plus extras. Now I mix, match, and rewear basics.

WHAT I DO INSTEAD:
Pack versatile pieces and plan to do one small load of laundry.



02 FULL-SIZE TOILETRIES



Big bottles take up too much space.

WHAT I DO INSTEAD:
Fill travel bottles with products we already use. Use hotel toiletries for short trips.

03 TOO MANY SHOES



I used to pack shoes for every possible situation. Most never left the suitcase.

WHAT I DO INSTEAD:
Everyone wears their bulkiest shoes and I pack one extra pair per person.

04 A HUGE PILE OF TOYS



They play with random things anyway, not all the toys I pack.

WHAT I DO INSTEAD:
Each kid gets one small bag with a few favorite activities or toys.

05 BULKY BEACH TOWELS



Beach towels take up a ridiculous amount of space.

WHAT I DO INSTEAD:
Use hotel towels or bring thin quick-dry travel towels if we need our own.

06 THE "JUST IN CASE" CLOTHES



Extra clothes "just in case" add up fast.

WHAT I DO INSTEAD:
Check the weather and pack for what we're actually planning to do.

07 A DIFFERENT PURSE FOR EVERY OUTFIT



One bag is all I need.

WHAT I DO INSTEAD:
Bring one practical crossbody or backpack that works with everything.

08 HUGE PACKS OF DIAPERS



They take up so much room.

WHAT I DO INSTEAD:
Pack enough for travel day and a day or two. Then buy more when we arrive.

09 EVERY BABY ITEM WE OWN



Babies need a lot—but not our entire house.

WHAT I DO INSTEAD:
Focus on feeding, sleeping, diapering, transportation, and a few comfort items.

10 TONS OF SNACKS



I used to pack enough for the entire vacation.

WHAT I DO INSTEAD:
Pack enough for travel day plus a small emergency stash. Buy the rest there.

♥ **TIP:** Grocery delivery can be a lifesaver!

11 THINGS THE HOTEL ALREADY PROVIDES



Hair dryer? Iron? Pack 'n Play? Often already there.

WHAT I DO INSTEAD:
Check amenities before I pack. Five minutes can save a lot of suitcase space.

12 TOO MANY PAJAMAS



Kids don't need a fresh pair every single night.

WHAT I DO INSTEAD:
Usually pack 2-3 sets and rotate them. We wash if needed.

13 EXPENSIVE JEWELRY



Too easy to lose or damage on trips.

WHAT I DO INSTEAD:
Bring simple, everyday jewelry. The precious stuff stays home.

14 A GIANT "EMERGENCY" MEDICINE CABINET



I used to pack everything.

WHAT I DO INSTEAD:
Bring our meds + a small kit with basics for our family.

15 THINGS I CAN BUY THERE



If it's bulky, inexpensive, and easy to buy... I leave it home.

Examples:

- ✓ Bottled water
- ✓ Extra snacks
- ✓ Diapers
- ✓ Beach toys
- ✓ Cheap toiletries

THE OLD WAY vs. THE NEW WAY



THE OLD WAY

- ✗ Pack for every possible scenario
- ✗ Bring backups for the backups
- ✗ Fill every inch of the suitcase
- ✗ Drag extra luggage through the airport
- ✗ Spend the vacation digging through everything
- ✗ Come home wondering why half of it was never used



THE NEW WAY

- ✓ Pack for the trip we're actually taking
- ✓ Choose clothes that mix and match
- ✓ Use what the hotel provides
- ✓ Buy inexpensive bulky items at the destination
- ✓ Leave room in the suitcase
- ✓ Travel with less stuff to manage



MY NEW FAMILY VACATION PACKING RULE

Before something goes into the suitcase, I ask one question:
WILL WE DEFINITELY USE THIS?

- ✓ Not could we use it.
- ✓ Not what if we need it.
- ✓ Will we actually use it?

If I'm still debating it five minutes later, there's a good chance it stays home. ♥

THERE ARE STILL A FEW THINGS I WOULD RATHER OVERPACK.



Important medications



Travel documents



Chargers



A change of clothes for the kids



A truly important comfort item



Anything difficult to replace at our destination



The goal isn't to pack as little as humanly possible.
It's to stop hauling things your family probably won't use.

Take it and go. ♥