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Stop, Drop, and Roll: The Best Way To Pack

by TFB EDITORS on JUNE 29, 2012

By Jan Ross

I just finished packing a suitcase for a week in a beach house and I'm amazed that I actually have room in my suitcase. And it only weighs about 35 pounds. I'm pretty pleased with myself. Now, some people will manage to walk on that plane with one small carry-on, but I will not be one of those people.

I need choices.

And shoes. I *need* shoes.

So I will have to check a bag, but it's not crammed full and it's not heavy. I have learned. After nearly paying a great deal extra for a heavy bag on a trip to Hawaii, I've finally learned.

There are all kind of tips on the Internet about packing light, what to pack, and how much to take, but it's really an individual choice. *Some people have to have lots of shoes, for example.* But here's what I've learned about packing and what allows me to take what I want, be happy, and still not have an overweight, overpacked suitcase. I call it Stop, Drop, and Roll:

STOP. What kind of suitcase are you using? When my husband and I first started traveling seriously, we both had complete sets of that canvas luggage. You know the kind I mean — with all the matching pieces each of that

are extremely heavy before you even start packing them. We struggled along for a while getting more and more annoyed with the limitations of our suitcases before we finally decided to just spend the money to get a [Rimowa](#) suitcase for each of us. My sister had a Rimowa suitcase and had been raving about how fabulous it was, how light, how you could fit so much stuff in it and it was still light! You can actually watch a video on Youtube about these suitcases here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8WGEtn8QMca> I don't sell Rimowa or make any money from recommending them, I just think their suitcases are nothing short of marvelous. You can pick up an empty Rimowa suitcase with one finger – no kidding! They are quite an investment, but they are absolutely worth every penny.

DROP. You know what I mean. Drop it. That fifth top you're packing for a weekend trip just because you might change your mind about what you want to wear. I have no problem with packing darling clothes and matching shoes and jewelry *of course*, but you have to set some limits. One important thing I have learned about fashion while traveling is that people pay much more attention to what you wear on the top than what you wear on the bottom. So take one great pair of black pants and several cute tops. Believe me, nobody will notice you're wearing the same pants every day. Lay out everything you're thinking about taking then take out about half of it and put it back in the closet because you are probably not going to need it.

ROLL. I've tried every packing method out there. For years, I simply folded my clothes, then I tried several other methods until I finally started rolling everything and *voila!* The perfect way to pack. Everything takes up less room when you neatly roll it, except bulky things, like sweaters and jeans. Just fold those flat and roll a second layer on top.



I need my shoes. Lots of shoes!



Rimowa suitcases are light weight and practicaly indestructible.



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So, just like a fire drill – Stop, Drop and Roll. And have fun on that trip!

What are your favorite packing tips? Share them with us in the Comments section.

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You can pack more clothes by rolling rather than folding.

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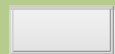
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