# WELCOME TO THE PACKING EDITION OF STRATHMORE HOUSE HOLIDAY MANTERS



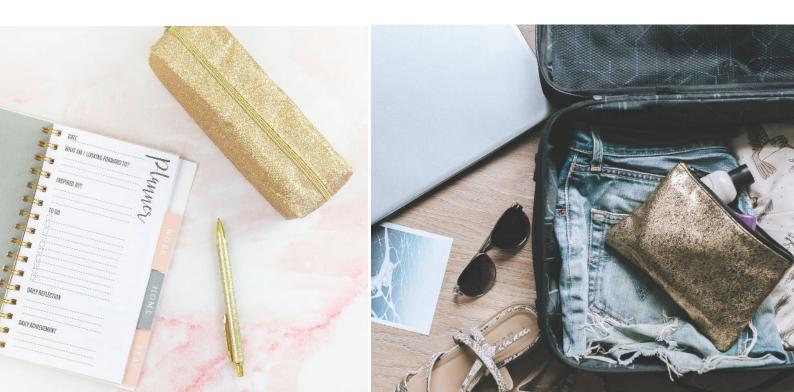


Finance Manager, Nikki Field shares some packing #holidaymatters know how...

In the same way that not all who wonder are lost...

Not all who pack 8 suitcases have everything they need!

### **5 TOP TIPS**



## WELCOME TO THE PACKING EDITION

## What can you do to prevent yourself becoming a slave to the holiday packing nightmare?

#### Holiday Packing Secrets Shared...

Packing for a holiday can be a daunting and expensive event; even a short UK break away to a lovely Serviced Apartment like ours!

From worrying about forgetting something essential, through to over packing and taking a months worth rather than a few days!

Not only can it be stressful - it can also costs a small fortune too!

We ask our Finance Manager to lend a hand! Here are her 5 TOP TIPS on how to spend less and save on the stress!

#### AT **#ONE**

#### UNRAVEL BEFORE YOU TRAVEL | Note book at the ready...

Whether you are holidaying with your family; you are a solo traveller; it's just you and your partner or you are holidaying with loved ones...before you leave for your holiday my first tip is : MAKE A LIST!

The pressure of packing can be HUGE! Not only could it ruin your holiday if you don't pack that favourite top – it can also end up costing a small fortune when you get there; buying medicines, toothpaste, chargers or headphones!

#### It's so easy to spend hours packing, unpacking and repacking. It sounds so basic but make a list!

If you are going with friends, make a list but each take the 'essentials' so that you have what you need without double packing - that way you have plenty of extra space in your bags for other essentials! Also, check what will be there for you when you arrive. At Strathmore House Apartments for example, we have a lot of what you need, like Towels & Hair Dryers!

Break the list into sections: **Valuable and Essentials (**like Photo ID, Insurance Certificates, Devices, Chargers, Medicines and so on). Then **Clothing & Accessories,** add items as outfits on the list, then work out the accessories you'll need. Try and double up on bags and mix things up with the accessories – things that all work well together.

Toiletries & Make-up next - this is a great time to sort out your make-up and wash your brushes too!

Add an EXTRAS to your list too - it's a great way of seeing the odd things you can't live without!



#### AT **#TWO**

## HOLIDAY PACKING | To prepare like a Kardashian - doesn't mean you have to spend like one!

#### Planning your outfits ahead of time is my secret weapon...!

How many times do you panic buy because you haven't gone through your wardrobe and think you **NEED** tonnes of new stuff?

My second top tip is to go through your wardrobe and accessories drawers; work out what you will wear for each day, each event, activity and night out.

## Create the perfect capsule holiday outfits; outfits you look fabulous in, but also that you are comfortable in too.

#### Plan ahead from head to toe; try it all on and then take a pic!

Not only will this save you time when you're away, but you also get a feel for what you 'actually' need top buy; maybe a new belt to tie an outfit together or new hat, nail varnish and so on. Rarely do you 'need' as much as you think!

I have learnt that by doing this, I fall back in love with older items too, like they have been given a new lease of life, some that I had forgotten all about!

I also go as far as to pop Post-It notes on my outfits to label which shoes and accessories go with what look!! I know it sounds extreme perhaps, but it keeps everything super organised.

An additional top tip that will save you money and stains is to place shoes in Shower Caps! Way cheaper than shoe bags and you can use them on holiday - either to keep your hair back in the shower, conditioning your hair with a leave in conditioner or keeping things together in drawers when you get there to make it easy to repack!

#### AT **#THREE**

#### Let The Packing Help The Unpacking!

There is nothing like getting to your holiday destination and then finding yourself faffing with the unpacking rituals!

## With teenage children that have numerous gadgets each. I find myself in an array of messy tangles when it comes to unpacking cables before they can charge anything or connect to the Wi-Fi!

To avoid these messy bundles of tangles with ALL the various wires, I roll them up tightly and throw them in a sunglasses case. You can pick them up from charity shops for as little as 25p and they are a GODSEND!

They are super easy to open/close and won't allow them to move around on the go and keep them safe from spills. You can also do the same with jewellery, small perfume bottles and any other odds and ends.

What's great too is you can slip them in your beach bag or day trip bags; so you can travel light and safe. If you are going abroad for your holiday it's a really handy thing to keep keys, tickets or passes in for on the beach. They keep everything dry and in one place.

**Another tip** to avoid the worst case scenario of being robbed, I always try and be inconspicuous and avoid flashing the cash. If you're on the beach and you go for a swim, hide your money in an empty sun tan lotion container. You could also use empty lip balm containers to hide rolled up notes too.

#### AT **#FOUR**

#### HAPPY HOLIDAY'S| Laundry FRESH!

#### Make everyday a fresh smelling day!

## This is a trick that I know many people swear by; and I am certainly one of them! I like to take tumble dryer sheets with me on holiday!

From start to finish they are an amazing holiday essential. I always pack my cases and bags away in the loft after each holiday with a couple in; so when I get them out each year they are smelling great!

I then pack a couple of sheets in the bottom of my case to keep everything that I pack fresh. Unlike Strathmore House Apartments, some places that you stay can have some drawers and wardrobes that smell a little musty; so I reuse them when I get there and they work really well for keeping it smelling clean and fresh during your stay.

Because often you have a damp towel or washing on the way home, I always pop a couple of extra ones in for the homeward bound trip. It helps with the unpacking when you get home - no smelly laundry!

#### AT **#FIVE**

#### **CREATE THE PERFECT HOLIDAY MUST HAVES | Toiletries Tastic!**

With a teenage daughter, there is always the risk that an entire case will be used for make-up and toiletries...

But it's not only teenagers that feel the temptation to pack our holiday suitcase with as many tubes, bottles,lotions and potions as we can! We all feel the urge to over pack all of our favourites and it's not always easy to resist!

I always try and collect free samples of toiletries throughout the year and take these instead. They are small and perfect for taking on the road. I also keep handy little bottles, jars and pots throughout the year too. Wash them out and they are perfect for refilling and it's better for the environment.

Department stores are also really good when you buy your perfume. Top Tip - if when you're buying your full size bottle ask if they have a few samples of your perfume that you can have too. You can then save these for your hollibobs - you smell just as great without having to take your big bottle with you!

## To avoid disastrous leaks, I always wrap bottles and pots in cling-film. Just so handy and you don't have to worry about a spill!

Also, to prevent your pressed powder or eye-shadow from cracking during your travels, place a flat cotton wool pad in between the pressed powder and the lid - no damage and any condensation or knocking around wont do any damage!

