

FOUND & FORGED / TRADING CARDS

Safe Shipping Guide for Bulk Trading Cards

A practical packing guide for Magic: The Gathering and Pokémon collections - from a few hundred cards to multi-thousand-card shipments.

THE GOAL: Cards should arrive dry, clean, organized, and unable to slide, bend, or crush inside the package.

Before you pack

- Confirm the sale first. Agree on the cards being sent, estimated quantity, buying categories, condition expectations, and shipping arrangements before mailing.
- Confirm the delivery address. Use the address supplied directly by Found & Forged for your transaction. Do not guess from a website or old conversation.
- Take photos. Photograph the collection before packing and the contents at each stage of packing. Keep the tracking receipt.
- Keep cards dry and clean. Do not ship cards that are damp or exposed to active moisture. Disclose smoke, mildew, odor, or damage before shipping.

What you will need

- Rigid trading-card storage boxes or snug-fitting inner cardboard boxes.
- A strong corrugated outer shipping box; double-wall corrugated is useful for heavy shipments.
- Packing paper, bubble wrap, or other firm void fill; tape; a shipping label; and a marker.
- Small bags or sleeves for separately grouped premium cards, if applicable.

Avoid: loose cards in oversized boxes, rubber bands directly around cards, household cling wrap touching card faces, and tape directly on cards or sleeves.

01 Sort and organize

If your purchase is being priced by category, keep the categories separated so they can be counted and verified efficiently.

- Separate Magic from Pokémon.
- If requested, separate commons/uncommons, rares, foils, basic lands, and other agreed categories.
- Place valuable singles in individual sleeves; use rigid protection for higher-value cards and keep them in a clearly labeled separate bundle.
- Remove loose coins, dice, binder rings, or other hard objects that could press against the cards.
- If using a binder, ensure pages cannot fold or shift; a snug card box is generally better for large bulk shipments.

02 Pack cards tightly - not forcefully

Place cards upright in rows inside a card storage box. The cards should be supported from both ends, without being squeezed or bowed.

- Fill remaining row space with folded cardboard spacers or clean packing paper so cards cannot tip over.
- Use rigid cardboard dividers between categories, if needed. Avoid thin dividers with sharp or rough edges.
- Close the inner box and gently tilt it: cards should not shift substantially.
- For very small bundles, sandwich sleeved cards between two rigid pieces of cardboard, secure the cardboard around the bundle (not around bare cards), then place it in a box.

QUICK TEST: If you can hear or feel a stack of cards sliding when the inner box moves, add a spacer before sealing.

03 Protect against moisture

- Use a clean, dry inner box. For added protection, place the closed inner box inside a plastic bag or moisture barrier, especially during wet weather.
- Do not tightly seal damp cards or damp cardboard in plastic; trapped moisture can cause damage.
- Keep cards away from liquids, scented products, and cleaning chemicals during packing.

04 Double-box heavy collections

A card storage box protects the cards from shifting; an outer corrugated shipping carton protects the storage box from impact and crushing.

- Place a cushioning layer on the bottom of the shipping carton.
- Center the closed inner card box and add cushioning to all six sides: bottom, top, left, right, front, and back.
- Fill all voids with firm packing material. Crumpled packing paper is useful; avoid relying on a few loose air pillows for a heavy load.
- For heavy collections, divide the cards among multiple manageable boxes rather than using one excessively heavy carton.
- Use a strong box with intact corners and no soft, crushed, or wet areas. Reinforce seams with packing tape.

Choosing a box size

Shipment	Suggested approach
Small bundle (dozens of cards)	Sleeves and rigid sandwich protection inside a snug box; no envelope-only shipment for bulk.
Medium shipment (hundreds)	Snug card storage box with spacers; cushioned outer carton.
Large shipment (thousands)	One or more sturdy card storage boxes inside reinforced corrugated outer carton(s).
Very large / heavy shipment	Split into multiple cartons to reduce crushing and handling risk.

Exact carton dimensions and weight limits depend on the carrier, service, and packaging. Check the carrier’s current rules before purchasing postage.

05 Seal and label

- Tape the center seam and both edge seams on the top and bottom of the outer carton (the H-taping method).
- Cover or remove any old shipping labels and barcodes from reused boxes.
- Place a paper inside with your name, transaction reference, and card-category counts, if available. Avoid including unnecessary personal information.
- Apply a clear, legible shipping label to a flat surface; keep barcodes unobstructed.

06 Choose shipping and document the package

- Use a shipping service with tracking. Consider insurance appropriate to the agreed value, and review the carrier’s packaging and claim requirements.
- Weigh and measure the fully packed carton before buying a label. Understated dimensions or weight can cause postage adjustments or delays.
- Check carrier service restrictions. Trading cards may not qualify for certain letter or media-mail services simply because they are printed material.
- Keep photos of the contents, inner packaging, sealed carton, and shipping label until the transaction is complete.
- Send the tracking number to Found & Forged using the agreed contact method.

Packing mistakes to avoid

Avoid	Why it matters
Loose cards in a large carton	Movement can damage corners and edges.
Rubber bands on cards	Pressure can crease cards and dent edges.
Tape directly on cards	Adhesive can tear surfaces and leave residue.
Overfilled card boxes	Pressure can bow cards or damage corners.
No cushioning around inner box	Outer impacts transfer directly to cards.
Unprotected cards near liquids	Moisture can warp or stain cardboard.
A single overloaded carton	Heavy loads are more likely to crush or split.

When the cards arrive

Found & Forged can verify card counts, categories, and condition after delivery according to the terms agreed for your transaction. The final offer or payout process should be confirmed before shipping. Packaging guidance does not replace the agreed purchase terms.

IMPORTANT: Do not ship until Found & Forged has confirmed that your collection is accepted for review and has provided the correct shipping instructions.

Printable shipping checklist

- ☐ I confirmed the offer/review process and the correct shipping address.
- ☐ I separated categories as requested and counted the cards.
- ☐ I protected valuable singles separately.
- ☐ All cards and packaging are clean and dry.
- ☐ The cards fit snugly with spacers; nothing rattles or slides.
- ☐ The inner card box is closed and protected from moisture.
- ☐ The outer carton has cushioning on every side.
- ☐ The carton is sturdy, sealed on all seams, and correctly labeled.
- ☐ I photographed the contents and finished package.
- ☐ I saved the tracking number and shared it with Found & Forged.

Optional packing slip

Field	Fill in
Seller / contact	_____
Transaction reference	_____
Magic card count / categories	_____
Pokémon card count / categories	_____
Other contents / notes	_____
Carton number	_____ of _____

Questions before shipping? Contact Found & Forged through the same channel used to arrange your sale. Ask before mailing if you are unsure about sorting, packing, or shipment size.

This guide provides general packing recommendations. It does not guarantee against transit damage or override carrier rules, insurance conditions, or the terms of a specific transaction.