

Storage, ventilation and the elements

If you have never stored your goods in a shipping container, these tips will help you protect them. Our containers are built to keep weather out, but standard storage is not climate controlled. Careful packing, ventilation and periodic checks all matter.

01 Side-by-side storage

Many containers sit side by side. Neighbouring containers and walls can provide shade and reduce direct exposure on some sides. This does not make a steel container insulated or climate controlled.

02 Sun and temperature

The yard layout and surrounding buildings provide shade at different times. Container temperatures can still change with Melbourne's weather. Ask us about suitability before storing heat-sensitive goods.

03 Position sensitive items

Standard containers are roughly 2.4m high inside. Keep sensitive goods away from the roof and outer walls. Antiques and temperature-sensitive items may need climate-controlled storage.

04 Leave space for air

Leave a small space between the walls and your items. Avoid stacking cartons right up to the roof. Keep ventilation openings clear, and put lighter boxes on top of stronger, heavier boxes.

05 Pack goods dry

Many household goods travel in containers, but good storage depends on preparation. Make sure items and packing materials are clean and completely dry. Damp items can introduce moisture and lead to condensation or mould.

06 Follow appliance instructions

For large electrical items, follow the manufacturer's storage instructions. Use original packaging where possible, or suitable protective materials such as moving blankets. Dry and prepare appliances before storing them.

07 Check during long storage

Check your goods periodically, especially during long stays. Follow the manufacturer's advice for stored cars and other equipment. Inspect for moisture and report any concerns. Our website has more storage tips.

08 Strong steel construction

A standard empty 20ft container typically weighs about 2.3 tonnes; the exact weight varies. Its steel structure is robust, but weight and strength do not prevent internal temperature changes or condensation.

09 Seals and ventilation

Rubber door seals help keep rain and dust out. Containers still need ventilation: they are not climate-controlled rooms. Check seals and packing regularly, and let us know if you notice any damage or water ingress.

Owner-run container storage in Melbourne's west for over 20 years.