



## Transport of Bikes by Plane or Courier

If travelling by plane with your bike or sending your bike via courier to Adelaide you will need to consider how to package your bike for transit. Check your airline's policy regarding bike transport for specific details on weight and size limits and additional costs.

There is a large range of bike travel bags on the market these days – either hard case or soft fabric style. Or you can use a cardboard bike box. Some airlines supply these (usually at a cost) but your local bike store will usually have used boxes on hand ... for free!

There are roughly two sizes of cardboard boxes used to pack new bikes. The larger of the two permits the rear wheel to be left fitted to the frame and offers minimal disassembly. The smaller size requires that both wheels be taken out of the frame. We recommend you do not use the smaller size.

When collecting a bike box you should also ask for a couple of plastic wheel keepers. These plastic fittings are designed to fit into your bike frame in place of the wheel axles to protect the forks from being squashed when the wheels are not fitted. If you do not use wheel keepers in your frame you run a very high risk of frame or fork damage in transit. These fittings will usually slide into most frames and forks but as there is a wide variety of fork and frame shape and design you may have to shape the keepers to fit snugly in your frame and forks.

If your bike has hydraulic disc brakes you should also ensure that you place a small plastic spacer in between the brake pads to stop the brake caliper from squeezing together in transit. If this happens it can be very difficult to slot your disc/wheel back in to place when reassembling your bike.

To pack your bike you will need to do the following (if you are not mechanically minded your bike store will usually do this for you for a small fee):

- Remove both left and right pedals;
- Remove the front wheel. If your bike has a rear rack fitted you may have to remove both wheels to fit it in the box;
- Fit wheel and frame keepers to replace the wheel axles;
- It is always wise if you are travelling by air to deflate the tyres to a very soft tyre pressure. Though this is no longer a necessity on most modern passenger jets, as their luggage compartments are pressurised, it is always a wise precaution in case your bike gets separately freighted on a smaller aircraft or stowed in an unpressurised compartment;
- Carefully lower your bike frame into the box, turning the handlebars and forks 90 degrees so that they are in line with the frame. If the handlebars do not fit comfortably into the box you may need to loosen the clamp holding the handlebars so that they can be rotated to fit. You should not normally need to loosen the stem in the forks and frame.
- Tape your handlebars to the frame so that there is no movement in frame or forks;
- Place your front wheel inside the box fitting packaging material in between the frame and wheel to prevent damage;
- Place your pedals and any other loose items from the bike (pump, empty water bottles etc) inside the box. These should be wrapped in packaging or paper to prevent damage to the other parts of the bike;
- Tape up the box and with a black marker-pen, address your bike to: Your Name, Annual Tour | Bicycle SA 3 / 264 Angas St, Adelaide 5000 You should also write in a separate panel marked - Return address: your name, your home address, your mobile phone contact number.