

Shipping economically and safely for Ebay and other platforms

Shipping any item safely and cost effectively is first determined by both size and weight. Primarily USPS (Postal Service) will be the first choice based on cost as well as reliability and safe handling of your items. Next, for larger or heavier items UPS and FEDEX are the other two options automatically available within Ebay's provided shipping program for sellers. Within the Ebay app or desktop program the weight and size of items will suggest appropriate shipping options but not always the most cost effective one. Remember, ebay charges fees on the total shipped selling price. For very large items DHL or other regional couriers may be an option to look into. Here, I will focus on the Big 3 as they are within my common experience and know how. Others may feel free to add to this, of course. Generally as a personal or small online seller the aim is to provide lighter, smaller, and easier to ship profitable items when at all possible to reduce the risk of damage in shipping and shipping expenses. The market will only bear certain selling prices.

So, saving on shipping expenses is the key to staying profitable along with your purchase price of your item, of course. Generally if you can pay 25% OR LESS of the CURRENT SELLING PRICE SHIPPED for an item at garage sales, estate sales, wholesale or wholesale lots new or used then you will generally be in a worthwhile profit range. If you are just clearing out your own items, what you get is what you get. Used items you find that people simply want to get rid of are ideal for volume. Even thrift stores can be a good source at times. Higher valued items you may accept lower margins but make more money per transaction or time spent per item if you don't plan to shoot for higher volumes. All of this will be sorted with time. Every seller is different. The KEY IS TO USE EBAY TO LOOK UP SOLD ITEMS - There is always 90 days worth of data to base your decisions on available there in real time you can look up on your phone using their app whether you intend to sell on that platform or another. Also, keep in mind local businesses and homes often discard items of value. Sometimes all you have to do is ask or frankly watch the side of the road. Bicycles don't ship well, but their parts do. The same goes for Electronics, Mixers, Vacuum cleaners, even cars . . . if the item is broken or untested or does not work .. believe it or not it could be a seller as "FOR PARTS ONLY" online. Some will want the whole item or when in doubt . . . part it out I say. .. It takes more time to pull parts that are in good condition off an item, but often even some working items sell for more in parts. Medical devices requiring prescriptions to get are a good example. You may not be able to sell a CPAP machine whole .. but look up the parts and you may be shocked what you can get for them. Broken phones that look like trash. Laptops. Loose LEGOS. In selling there is the old

saying . . there's a buyer for everything. Look up the items in the solds and find out. It's amazing what people will give you to sell that they see as junk broken.

If you may like to try selling new items, Brickseek.com is a great resource for clearance items at places like Walmart and others. Checking the closeout isles and endcaps at retailers is often a way to buy multiples new at a deep discount. Seasonal changeovers are great times.

(How to look up sold items on Ebay Video)

https://youtu.be/8c8_Ap7Pi6g

<https://www.ebay.com/help/selling/fees-credits-invoices/selling-fees?id=4364>

<https://www.ebay.com/help/selling/shipping-items/shipping-items?id=4077&st=3&pos=1&query=Shipping%20your%20items&intent=shipping&luenceai=luenceai>

Basic Shipping items needed on hand:

A digital or other scale to weigh your packages and items.

I have a large scale for items over a couple pounds that weighs up to 150 lbs or so and another smaller scale for common smaller sized items capable of reading into a few ounces accurately and up to 10 lbs max. Here, Dymo 40158 has served me well and is mobile capable. You can find many sellers on youtube sharing info on recommendations. There is no need to spend too much here. Scales under 40 bux last well.

A tape gun minimal and 2" Clear Packing Tape - optionally a table mounted tape dispenser that can handle at least 2" wide packing tape or as wide as 3". 3" is common industrially as a standard but 2" is much more cost effective and common among smaller sellers. I bought a gun and table dispenser that can accept either so I will not have to change if I want to goto 3" later. Up to you. 2" is the standard. Buying tape by the case on Ebay has served me well for price and quality. Also, if you setup an Ebay store you can order Ebay "free" shipping tape and other supplies quarterly.

Of course a box cutter or two and some scissors

<https://www.ebay.com/str/ebayshippingsupplies>

For shipping envelopes and boxes there is a wide variety available and needed once you really get shipping volume to make things easier and more efficient as time is key. Less time spent per item sold is more profit, of course. For the new seller or casual

seller simply having some free boxes you can find behind or at any local retailer of a variety of sizes if possible is fine. Most retailers like Gamestop etc have recycle bins where only clean boxes that have been broken down flat and protected from weather are easily accessible or asked for. They pay to have it hauled away. Their boxes and similar stores are light and ideal general sizing etc.

The best thing to keep in mind starting out shipping is that YOU CAN ALWAYS CUT DOWN A LARGER BOX to the size needed. Resizing boxes takes a little time but often can take you down in shipping costs with a few swift cuts once you get a hang of it. This is the case often with small items and small purchased boxes to drop a tier even in the First Class under a pound category.

On the other side, putting a “frankenstein” box together is an option too. If an item is an odd size or you don’t have the right size box, get creative. You can look up how to frankenstein a box on Youtube. There are many that give great ideas. The same goes for most of this. However, there is nothing like having the original packaging as it is engineered to protect the item in transit. If you have to ship a TV, rent to own stores are a great place to get empty TV boxes with the foam ends you can adapt to your needs. I am focusing from here out more on the actual shipping tiers and preferred methods to get the best pricing offered.

(How to get free shipping supplies) YOU CAN GET SOME FROM YOUR POST OFFICE BUT ORDERING ON THEIR SITE 10 AT A TIME ETC MAKES THEM ALL AVAILABLE

<https://youtu.be/HaRkEUyW7Po>

Box Resizer (you can resize without this using a razor knife but it’s not as strong, neat, or easy.

(Search Box Resizers Scoring Wheel on Ebay - I have the razor knife / box cutter with the scoring wheel on it as well as the longer box resizer with the handle for large boxes)

(Resizing Boxes)

<https://youtu.be/qLbQl4rWvek>

<https://youtu.be/o-MsP3i74OI>

A way to print your shipping labels you create

You can use any printer to print onto regular paper and fold or cut the label to be taped to your packages. However, ink and paper are not cheap!!!

I have and recommend a Thermal Printer that accepts and prints standard 4”x6” labels. There are many brands and labels out there ..

I use the DYMO LabelWriter 4XL that has a great long lasting reputation. I purchased the labels from a generic source on Ebay and they work great. No issues. The cost per label is less than a penny.

(Shipping How To Video Playlist)

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLmPd4Aa2uH-Avt5GWfviznuS8OGINYy72>

(Shipping Cost Savings Video)

<https://youtu.be/TWWTHGtHVuU>

I really prefer using www.PirateShip.com Some may like Stamps.com or ShipStation.com

https://www.pirateship.com/usps/commercial-pricing?utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc-conversions&utm_campaign=rates&utm_term=usps-rates&utm_content=responi ve&gclid=CjwKCAjwx6WDBhBQEiwA_dP8rUA8ZPGazSqTnN7P9dT7Mby1Hn8V6VlvH6oloXn_KEq6Mgyf5uLMehoCDJIQAvD_BwE

Pirate Ship is free, it's easy to understand, and does a good job offering options not available on Ebay and other platforms. They are a USPS ship service only. However the following services are offered that many are not aware of at all that is unique to their service.

Deepest discounts (They say - Ebay or other platforms may match and rarely have I seen better if I have) Sometimes it is easier to just ship within Ebay though on simple things. Up to you. I use both

Services to look up on their site to save money:

- Box in a Bag Priority Shipping Rates (items over 1 lb is Priority USPS)

Simply put the box already packed into a Poly Mailer Bag and DISCOUNT! (Now called Priority Mail Cubic Softpak as well)

<https://support.pirateship.com/en/articles/1068213-can-i-use-priority-mail-cubic-with-a-softpack-or-padded-envelope>

- Cubic Shipping Rates (Again Priority items over 1 lb USPS)

There is a generous weight limit and the actual charge is based on the cubic inches of the box.

<https://www.pirateship.com/usps/priority-mail-cubic>

- Regional A / B Shipping Rates (Must have USPS Regional Boxes to use for this service on hand)

These Regional Boxes are to save shipping USPS Region to Region. It's something to be aware of and does save at times - however I have not used it very much as I am in the Deep SE and other available services work out for me.

<https://support.shippingeasy.com/hc/en-us/articles/203085539-USPS-Regional-Rate-Shipping-Overview>

- **Simple Export Rate** - You must contact customer support chat once you are signed up to have them unlock this feature for you by request only.

Here, it really is simple. Ship anywhere for a flat rate based on size and weight of course limits. Simple to understand and use and very reasonable.

<https://www.pirateship.com/usps/simple-export-rate>

BIG ONE HERE!! SELLING INTERNATIONAL BY SHIPPING AT A REASONABLE RATE!!! I have had great luck shipping international without issue (up until Covid delays and games with the mail. So be aware of that.) Still items get there just takes a lot longer at times. This opens up so many more customers for items that do or even don't sell in the U.S. Think old chargers for old cell phones etc. . tech is slower other places and faster in some. Some items are regionally available only even when sold new, etc. If I list any USPS service like Media Mail or Flat Rate as this progresses just know that all of USPS services plus the over listed are all available on PirateShip.

(USPS doesn't make much easy to understand IMO - Pirate ship rates will be similar to other platforms discounted rate anyhow and you can download in PDF Excel or look on their site in a simple manner)

Pirate Ship Rates tables

<https://www.pirateship.com/rates>

<https://youtu.be/BIYDUKZTWaw>

Tiers I prioritize in progression based on costs

USPS Rates

<https://www.usps.com/business/prices.htm>

USPS Media Mail

Cheapest way to ship Books, CDs, DVDs, BluRays, Records etc.

Basically this is deeply discounted to encourage media sales that would otherwise be shipped at First Class rates that wouldn't make sense.

Media Mail Rules and Limitations

https://about.usps.com/notices/not121/not121_tech.htm

Poly Mailers and Bubble Mailers are ideal listed below. Also, there are Vinyl Record specific shipping boxes with inserts you can search for on Ebay. Keep in mind though you can always cut a box to what you need and tape it up to protect items too. Even say a cd case that is fragile - cut and slip a piece of cardboard over both sides then place it into the bubble mailer perhaps. If you have a lot of records I do suggest the purchase mailers to save time and they provide excellent protection when used with inserts as well for more pricey albums. Of course, regular boxes can be used in media mail as well. You must provide your own packaging at this rate, of course.

Items under 15.99 ounces - First Class (always cheapest under 15.99 oz. not media mail qualified)

Items **under a pound** in weight qualify for USPS First Class Shipping. For these small items you will need to provide your own shipping materials such as poly bag, bubble poly mailer, manila mailer envelopes or small boxes and tape of course. You can also find free boxes locally as discussed and resize them. Ideally the lightest solution that protects your item sufficiently is the key. If you would like to purchase boxes here's a great link to a Ebay store I purchase from. Figure cost per box based on the volume you buy to fit your needs best. Also, don't forget about the shipping supplies ebay offers if you have an ebay store. Their supplies are not cheap but with the credit you get and have to use anyhow. . that's where it makes sense. I use the ebay credit / free shipping for anything under 1 lbs items because above 1 lb you can get free priority mail and flat rate boxes from USPS.

https://www.ebay.com/usr/theboxery?_trksid=p2047675.l2559

The 7x5x5 inch box is light and fits most standard Funko Pop collectibles and other small items. Again, it can be sized down as well. So when in doubt, instead of putting money into a lot of different sized boxes, buy larger but light weight boxes you can cut down if needed.

Most hats are under 1 lb shipped and I find 8x8x8 box to be ideal especially for new hats or hats in great condition to not get creased or folded in shipping. Hat lovers do not like caps that are creased etc! Some will say a 8x8x6 etc, but that's a tight fit often. And, the boxery boxes are lightweight so I typically stay just at the 12 oz. tier using the 8x8x8 inch.

If you have clothing or other items that stay under the 15.99 oz / 1 lb. limit then look into getting some Poly Bags. Here again, they can be cut down or just folded over so I primarily have 18"x14" on hand. Over time, you can find what suits you needs better and maybe save a little on other sizes.

For a little more protection Poly Bubble Mailers have bubble wrap built into the envelope. Of course they cost a little more as well. I have manila paper style bubble mailers 10"x7" and Poly Bubble Mailers 10"x14".

Now, for void fill you can use newspaper or rolls of packing paper or even a roll of foam. Packing peanuts are a mess and no one likes receiving packing peanuts. I have tissue paper from the Ebay "free" supplies that works well and is very light. Always think of the weight. Again, if you resize your box you may need little to no void fill if the item is in it's original packaging. However, bubble wrap roll is ideal for items not in their packaging. Foam roll is light but I have not found it as effective for the amount I have to use. In a pinch any of this can be found at your local Walmart. . however you will eat up your profits vs. buying bulk online or at an actual supplier. **SAVE PACKING MATERIALS YOU RECIEVE IN SHIPMENTS TO YOU!** Look for packing material when hunting boxes locally. It's there. It's free. It's being recycled and used again by you. Most stores have no issue if you ask to take as much as you want. A good attitude and kindness goes a long way. And, get to know the Gamestop workers and manager. They will call you when crazy markdown clearance happens on your next box run~!!!!

Over 15.99 oz. or Over 1 lb (I say 15.99 as Ebay sometimes kicks you up to Priority at 16 oz. keep that in mind)

USPS Priority Mail / Package

For Priority Mail there are several options and services.

Flat rate tends to be easy and a good price. If it fits in their packaging **FREE FROM THEIR SITE OR POST OFFICE** (and is within their given weight limits - which if it fits it probably does. These are fairly small boxes and envelopes) Here, you **CAN NOT CUT DOWN, RECONSTRUCT, OR MODIFY THESE FLAT RATE FREE PACKAGES!** They must be able to close as intended, however you can reinforce corners with tape and there are creative ways within the rules to fit things.

https://store.usps.com/store/results/free-shipping-supplies/shipping-supplies/_/N-alnx4jZ7d0v8v

<https://www.pirateship.com/usps/priority-mail-flat-rate>

Priority Mail Flat Rate Envelopes both **Legal EP14L** and the **smaller EP14F** are cardboard non padded. You can add padding etc. around items if needed. Shirts etc are great in these.

You can also fit small boxes in these believe it or not for heavy items over 1 lb. by working the envelope a little. It's within the rules. See USPS rules for details.

<https://youtu.be/8OvXwNVqvHE>

Priority Mail Padded Flat Rate Envelopes are Bubble Poly Mailers essentially and only come in one size. They are very stretchable!

<https://youtu.be/cOW6qsf3-KM>

There are **Priority Mail Flat Rate Boxes** of differing sizes, but because of the Cubic Rates available as well as the Regional Rates . . rarely will the Flat Rate Boxes make sense. The ***Medium Flat Rate Box is the only one I would suggest having on hand*** and generally these options are for retail customers who don't know better so they are almost always readily available at the local post office anyhow. . so no real need to order these. You can order 1 Flat Rate Box Variety Pack to have one of each if you want.

Priority Mail Cubic Rate - For Cubic you can use your own packaging or Free Priority Mail Packaging (NON FLAT RATE)

For items over 1 lbs that generally fit into a compact to small box or poly mailer. Or, **Priority Mail Cubic Softpak also called Box in Bag**. YOU CAN CUT DOWN AND RESIZE PRIORITY MAIL PACKAGES AND MATERIALS - just NOT THE *FLAT RATE* ONES Check the rates to see what makes the most sense for your item.

[https://support.pirateship.com/en/articles/1831755-free-usps-mailing-boxes-for-priority-mail-cubic#:~:text=You%20can%20order%20these%20in,Package%20or%20any%20other%20service\).](https://support.pirateship.com/en/articles/1831755-free-usps-mailing-boxes-for-priority-mail-cubic#:~:text=You%20can%20order%20these%20in,Package%20or%20any%20other%20service).)

Priority Mail Regional Rate Boxes A1, A2, B1, B2

This is a possible goto if Cubic doesn't work

<https://youtu.be/aUj6JsNQ5k0>

https://store.usps.com/store/results/free-shipping-supplies/shipping-supplies/_/N-alnx4jZ7d0v8v?No=18&Nrpp=18&

This brings me to the Regular NON FLAT RATE Priority Mail Boxes I would suggest ordering as well as the above mentioned Flat Rate Envelopes and Boxes and Regional Boxes, keeping on hand **FOR FREE!!**

REMEMBER YOU CAN CUT DOWN RESIZE THESE NON FLAT RATE BOXES! So, if you do not want to order all these opt for the larger ones maybe at first.

- 10 Priority Mail Box 4
- 10 Priority Mail Box 7 (great for throw pillows Cubic Rate Pirate Ship)
- 10 Priority Mail Box 1095
- 10 Dual-Use Priority Mail/Priority Mail Express Small Tube (rolled up paper prints or sports bats)
- 10 Priority Mail Shoe Box - OSHOEBOX (Shoes in their box, padded flat rate for shoes only often is better and keep in mind this can be cut down fits lots of items)

That will get you going and cover most things. If you have longer bats look at the larger tubes etc. There is no magic formula each seller figures out the best mix over time. This list simply prepares you to not be scrambling for supplies when something sells.

I WOULD SUGGEST that if you are new to shipping and selling . . . PACKAGE THE ITEM UP then list it. Then, it will stay clean anyhow and if you mark the outside of the box it will be easy to find and quick to ship .. you won't get caught scrambling. Then, with experience no need to spend the time pre-packaging and you can keep your items in Plastic Bins that are labeled from 001 up to whatever.. Each container listed already can be a mix of loose clean items and you simply put the bin number it's located in into your listings. When it sells, boom. . easy to find and ship.

Medium to larger items you will find FEDEX more cost effective generally along with UPS. It all depends on the item, where you are located, and the destination of course. I have Both FEDEX and UPS activated as options on Ebay along with the USPS default of course. This way I can price compare when needed and not pay full retail. You can setup FEDEX or UPS direct accounts, but that has not made sense for me at my volume. It's been cheaper on Ebay with my discounts.

Getting large boxes for shipping these items is easy locally. However, if you prefer to buy new boxes Lowes and Walmart sell them in various sizes in a pinch. In Walmart it's near the school and office supplies of course and in Lowes its back by the Plastic Bins / storage items.

Shipping large items is where padding and adding void fill is a MUST!! There are LARGE BUBBLES you can buy on the roll for heavy items to be wrapped in or at least taped over all the edges then void filled. Cut down your boxes to save as dimensions call kill you on shipping. Once the weight is over a certain level it usually makes more sense to use the cut off flaps etc. as a way to double up the corners inside the box etc. Ideally shipping large items in a similar or the original packaging with styrofoam is ideal but not always an option. You can find styrofoam inserts at rent to own stores discarded regularly.

If the item gets damaged it's a major loss and hassle with an upset customer on the other end. . k

Other Helpful Links:

<https://www.flippertools.com>

https://store.usps.com/store/results/shipping-supplies/_/N-7d0v8v?_requestid=1957917

<https://ship.pirateship.com>

<https://www.ebay.com/help/selling/listings/creating-managing-listings/item-conditions-category?id=4765>

<https://www.salecalc.com/ebay?t=1&cp=12&b=&sp=&s=&r=&q=1&ct=&sc=&mc=&pt=2&g=40&c=11&fi=on&st=3&pl=1&pe=2.9&pf=0.30&m=1&o=0>

<https://www.ebay.com/shp/Calculator>

<https://www.ebay.com/help/policies/prohibited-restricted-items/prohibited-restricted-items?id=4207>

https://www.ebay.com/sh/research?categoryId=2624&dayRange=30&endDate=1617559649536&format=FIXED_PRICE&keywords=POP+Funko+Tom+Mortal+Natsworthy+Engines&marketplace=EBAY-US&queryCondition=AND&startDate=1615054049536&tabName=SOLD

<https://brickseek.com>

<https://camelcamelcamel.com/camelizer>

<https://keepa.com/#!>

https://www.sellbrite.com/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=1528043746&gclid=CjwKCAjw3azoBRAXEiwA-64Orw89iyq0sIWjzAlI37Mc-SkLnoMMksMGj4ik-SayjZEjtUgjaNdKR0CQhsQAvD_BwE

<https://www.shipstation.com/features/>

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/yard-sale-treasure-map/id318649229>

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.webmap&hl=en_US&gl=US

<https://www.estatesales.net>

<https://www.worthpoint.com>

