

## #165 - The Lazy Genius Packs for a Trip

Hi there! You're listening to The Lazy Genius Podcast! I'm Kendra Adachi, and I'm here to help you be a genius about the things that matter and lazy about the things that don't!

Okay, today is a very exciting episode - the lazy genius packs for a trip! Vacations definitely look different this summer than they usually do, but trips aren't just vacations. You'll go see grandma, you might travel a state or two over when the holidays come soon. Basically, we'll have trips long after this pandemic is over, and I get a lot of questions about doing a packing episode, so here you go. Come back and listen before you go on your trips.

First, we're going to do what I call a priority stack. I think there are three main priorities people have when packing: being prepared, packing light, and being able to find everything. We all mostly want all three of those, but if we just pack loosey goosey thinking equally of all three priorities, we won't really prioritize any of them, at least not in an efficient way. And that's why I love priority stacks. A priority stack is simply putting a small number of priorities into the order that makes the most sense for you. So for packing, stack them from most important to least important, and then you can have a more clear picture of how to pack, of what matters most.

One of the principles in my book, *The Lazy Genius Way*, is to go in the right order. This is a great example of putting that principle into practice. You need to stack your priorities and put them in the right order so you'll put your energy where it has the greatest impact on what matters to you.

So if my math is right, there are six possible priority stacks with these three options: packing light, finding stuff, and being prepared. I'd like to assign one word to each of three priorities so you can know tangibly apply it to packing. Just for fun, all of them start with the letter B. So if your priority is packing light, your focus will be on bags. The bags are limited. Nothing else matters as long as stuff fits in the smallest number of bags that you decide ahead of time.

Finding stuff. Let's use the word bucket. The idea of the bucket is that you are collecting the same kind of thing into one bucket or one container or one category. The easiest way to find stuff is when the same kinds of things are together. It's the same idea as packing to move. If you label a bunch of boxes "miscellaneous" or "stuff" or "random" or "junk drawer" you'll never find anything. The same is true of packing for a trip if you want to find stuff. Think about buckets. Group like items or like categories together in the one bucket and then move on to the next bucket. We'll talk about what to do those buckets in a second. And you know I don't mean literal buckets, right? Metaphorical buckets.

Okay, and the third priority is being prepared, and that B word is (ha! Anyone else think of Knox McCoy just then?) the third B word is blueprint. You're trying to imagine the entire potential framework of your trip, walking through the details like an architect trying to keep a building from falling down. You're thinking through everything, every scenario, and making lists of what you'll need for those scenarios.

Okay, so that's bags for packing light, buckets for finding stuff, and blueprints for being prepared. Got it? Okay, now let's walk through three priority stacks to help you get an idea of how to pack for your next trip.

The stacks are listed from most important to least important, and the first stack we'll break down is Packing Light, Being Prepared, and Finding Stuff. That's our order. Packing light, be prepared, find your stuff. So here's our order of priority with our b-words: bags, blueprint, buckets. Bags, blueprint, buckets.

Your main thing is to go ahead and limit your bags. Choose what bags you're bringing, choose how much space you're taking up in the car or van or your back. The idea here is that you have to start with your bags if packing light is your top priority. If it doesn't fit in a bag, it doesn't come. That's the rule. I think about Tsh Oxenreider with this. Remember when her whole family took a trip around the world a couple of years ago? Everyone had a backpack. That was it. That was the number one priority which affected how they packed because the bag and the space it takes up matters most.

If your next stack is to be prepared or the blueprint of your trip, you will think through the absolute essentials for each scenario. You will put in the time and effort and money to research and buy versatile shoes and rainjackets that fit in your pocket and all kinds of things that go double duty. You'll think about shirts that dry quickly or wick away sweat so you're prepared for multiple kinds of weather. You'll skip the umbrella in favor of a rainjacket with a hood. You're still prepared for rain, but you're considering your bag before you consider your trip's blueprint.

The final priority in the stack is to be able to find everything, but this takes care of itself in a lot of ways. Creating buckets of categories is the most helpful when you have a lot of stuff, but if you're focusing on packing light and on your limited bags, you will already most likely be able to find what you need because there are fewer places to look.

So if that's your priority stack, that's your strategy in packing.

Second stack. It's a blueprint for being prepared, then buckets for being able to find everything, and finally bags or packing light. Here, you start with the blueprint. You start with what makes each day of your trip a good day. Because really that's what prep is all about, it's about having a good day, not letting a bump in the road throw everybody off because you're prepared. So you start with thinking through the day and what will make it work depending on the scenarios you encounter. Write the stuff down. Think through all the path diversions and write them down. What will you need? Because again that's your top priority. Being prepared is your highest priority.

Next is the bucket. You want to be able to find everything, especially since you're bringing a lot of stuff. This is where you categorize. You can categorize by day, event, person, whatever. So maybe it's a rain bucket, a beach bucket, a pitstop bucket, a missed plane bucket, a bucket for

each of your kids, a bedtime bucket, whatever you want. Put all of those things you want to bring in order to be prepared into metaphorical buckets so you can find everything when you need it.

And then the final part is bags. Do you care about packing light? Uh no. So every bucket gets a bag. You will pack as many bags as are necessary to hold the buckets that are preparing you for anything. Make sense?

So the final priority stack is my personal choice: it goes buckets first because I love a good category and want to be able to find things quickly, bags next because I like essentializing our packing, and finally the blueprint. I do like being prepared, but I figure that we can be prepared for the essentials and figure out the other stuff when we need it.

So here, simple specific categories are greater than space-saving or cramming things into as few bags as possible. I hope you caught my bonus episode with Courtney Cleveland from All the Best Days, but I subscribe to the Courtney Cleveland method of packing where everyone gets a bag. I didn't know I packed like her, but I do and it made me very happy. Every person gets a bag. All the shoes go in one bucket. If we're going to the beach, all the beach stuff goes in one bucket. Everything gets categorized and bucketed. Then I have as many bags as there are categories. Now here's the thing. You might be thinking "well wait wouldn't that make packing light your least important category?" Good question but no. Because not every category makes the cut or is as big as it would like to be. For example, we took a beach trip recently, and I at first had a huge bucket full of games and puzzles and all kinds of fun things. Then I realized that I would rather have space in the car and less to take in and out of the car and worry about in the beach house than be prepared with every entertainment possibility imaginable. If it rains the entire week, we'll play the games we have for as long as we can. If we need to run out to a drugstore and get a new puzzle or some bouncy balls or whatever to pass the time, we will, but I'm not going to pack that category as aggressively and preparedly as I might have if space was less of a priority.

So hopefully you see that these priority stacks help you name what matters so you can make the best decisions for yourself. You don't really need another packing list; you need a packing approach, and the priority stack helps you figure that out. If you want to Google "packing list" and cross-reference it with your priorities, by all means do. You might see something that reminds you of what you had forgotten. But ultimately, you don't need a packing list; you need a packing approach.

If you want one that's already built, I'll put a link in the shownotes to Courtney Cleveland's packing list even though it's not really a packing list. It's more of a bucket list really. There are items listed in each bucket, but the point I think is showing you what you can put in each bucket that then gets its own bag so you can travel well with what you need and still be able to find it all.

And that's how a Lazy Genius packs for a trip. No IG live this week but if you have thoughts or questions, put them in the comments of this post on the website at [thelazygeniuscollective.com/lazy/pack](http://thelazygeniuscollective.com/lazy/pack).

Thank you so much for listening. Applications are open for just two more days for the book launch team for The Lazy Genius Way. If you're interested, the link is in the show notes. I appreciate your being here today, for trusting me with your time, and I hope you feel encouraged about packing for your next trip. Until next time, be a genius about the things that matter and lazy about the things that don't. I'm Kendra, and I'll see you next week!