

Shipping

When selling online, one must be prepared to ship the work out safely and expeditiously. Gathering shipping supplies must happen early in the process to ensure you are ready to complete the transaction, when it happens.

Materials needed.

We all have our preferences. Standard practice is bubble wrap and styrofoam peanuts for fragile work. Recently, many have moved to a more environmentally conscious process, using paper for cushioning and void fill. There is definitely an argument for both. Personal preference and experience will determine your purchases.

Uline provides a lot of products. As far as shipping artwork goes, bubble wrap, boxes, and styrofoam peanuts are the most popular.

Snyder Paper is an Asheville based distributor that sells boxes, peanuts, newsprint, etc. We've listed this company to highlight the fact that we all have local, or regional, distributors that we can support. If you can buy your shipping materials locally and support a local business, that's always a good thing.

USPS offers free boxes if you ship Priority Mail. Many prefer this as it is a 2-3 day shipping time and carries insurance and tracking. The two most popular free Priority boxes are the **Number 7** and the **Number 4**. Note that these are on the small side. Many artists tend to sell smaller items online to keep shipping costs down.

Ranpak has become more popular in recent years, providing a paper-based packing material, as opposed to plastic and styrofoam. It's a more environmentally conscious choice, although some argue that it's effectiveness to protect the product is subpar to the previously mentioned products. It's personal preference, really.

Shipping labels are helpful and cheap. A laser printer is preferred because the print will not smear. Inkjet printers are suitable, but need to be protected by tape. Links for **laser labels** and **inkjet labels**.

**click bold words for links*

