

Packing for the big trip takes a lesson in security

BY ALICE RHEIN
SPECIAL EDITOR

Now that you've planned your dream honeymoon and have the itinerary and wardrobe all set, it's time to think about packing. Other than making sure the toothbrush isn't left behind, there's often not a lot of thought that goes into it. And that can be a big mistake.

Doug Chunovich, owner of Harrison Luggage in Berkley, says a few simple security tips he learned at an FBI seminar can make all the difference to travelers.

"Never put your residence address on the outside tag, use your workplace or a commercial address," he says. A home address visible to thieves is an invitation to have your home or apartment broken into while you're off enjoying yourself.

"Put your address on the inside of your luggage, too," says Chunovich. If your luggage gets lost and the tags removed, the chances of it getting back to you are much greater if you've included identifying information on the inside.

"Always carry your money and jewelry with you. Never check it in luggage."



Pack and play: Damaged luggage isn't always the fault of the airlines, say, Doug Chunovich, owner of Harrison Luggage in Berkley. He advises to invest in a quality piece that will last for years.

he says. There are pass-port cases and money belts which can securely hold your valuables underneath your clothing. Fanny packs, though carried close to the body, can be cut open from the bottom and emptied of their contents.

In addition, Sean Riley, owner of Humidor One Panache in Southfield, offers another bit of practical advice. "Always pack your carry-on with a change of clothing just in case your luggage doesn't end up where you do," he says.

And take the time to educate yourself on buying the right kind of luggage. Expensive doesn't necessarily equal better, but buying a substandard product can cost you in the long run.

That's why Chunovich makes it his business to educate people on buying luggage and packing for trips through seminars and an informative website (www.harrisonluggage.com).

"I've had people come in here after taking a trip that cost thousands with a \$49 suitcase that's been destroyed," says Chunovich, whose store sees more than 10,000 repairs a year. "They blame the airlines for ruining their luggage, but in fact, it's the manufacturer. Unfortunately, the industry is making a lot of garbage."

Chunovich offers the following suggestions on what to look for when buying luggage.

- With soft-sided fabrics, look for a Cordura nylon or a ballistic nylon which are both durable. Leather, though strong and durable, will scratch and scar over time. It's best to choose leather for garment bags or small pieces of luggage.
- With hard-sided suitcases, look for a full honeycomb frame which runs around the entire sides of the suitcase. If there's no flexibility when blows are applied to frame, it's probably untreated plastic.
- Look for a telescopic handle that's smooth, not too loose and fits the case. Look for wheels that are made of a hard plastic for wheels that are made of a soft plastic.
- To be sure you have a sturdy zipper, make sure the zipper system and should store flush into the suitcase.
- With stitching, look for a box where a larger portion of material overlaps the stitching.

Gifts from page 11

to be pampered and prepared for the big day. Manicures, pedicures, facials, tension-relieving massages, aromatherapy, makeup lessons and make-up applications are available by appointment.

Pick and choose amenities to create your own personal spa package gift. "A spa package is such a great gift because just it's such a luxury," says Valerie Sacchetti, Gift Registry Supervisor. "It's fun for everyone to be together and celebrate this special occasion, and get polished from head to toe at the same time." Spa specials include: Spa Express, \$125. Includes a manicure, pedicure, facial and hand treatment. One-hour makeup lesson, \$75 per person. Includes \$75 of your choice of Estee Lauder to take home. Half-hour makeup application on the day of the wedding, \$45 per person. Includes \$45 of your choice of Estee Lauder products to take home. For appointments call Hudson's Spa Estee Lauder, 248-816-4255. Sacchetti also notes that Millennium-themed gifts are big this year, and offers the Waterford Crystal "Times Square Star of Hope Ball" paper weight, \$98, as a beautifully appropriate way of commemorating a 2000 wedding.

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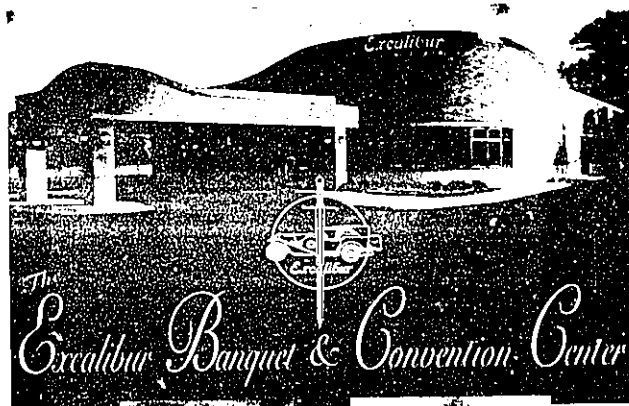
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