



# Packing Pointers

# Baggage Security Tips

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## *A Novel Holiday Packing Pointers* **Baggage Security Tips**

### Keep It Close or Closed

**Baggage Rule #1:** *Nothing* of significant value should ever be put in your checked baggage! If you're going to travel with something valuable, put it in a carryon and keep it with you.

**Baggage Rule #2:** Luggage locks are ludicrous. They usually are flimsy things, easily broken by rough baggage handling, or when becoming caught on parts of an automated baggage distribution system. **Thieves scoff at luggage locks.** Most can be snapped with a pair of pliers and a flick of the wrist. And, if they aren't TSA-recognized locks, you'll have to be present whenever checked baggage inspections occur to avoid TSA personnel breaking them.

**Furthermore, most external zipper compartments cannot be secured by luggage locks.**

The first time CD Miller saw someone's underwear traveling around a baggage claim turnstile—along with other contents from a zipper compartment that had opened during transport—she vowed to *never* use external zipper compartments to store *anything*, unless they could be securely closed.

### **The Answer? Plastic-Coated Twist-Ties!**

Plastic-coated twist-ties can be re-used multiple times without shredding, and work exceptionally well for keeping *all* checked baggage compartments closed. They don't catch on anything, and TSA personnel can search your bags anytime they need to. According to CD Miller:

"In all the years I've been securing my checked baggage openings with plastic-coated twist-ties, TSA personnel have *never* failed to re-twist-tie the closures after inspection."

The best twist-ties for securing luggage compartments are those created from the **tin-tie strips** commonly used to close **bags of gourmet coffee**. Tin-tie strips consist of **two wires** enclosed in thicker plastic than that which covers individual plastic-coated twist-ties. The *two* twist-ties created when one tin-tie strip is cut up the middle are each super strong and durable.



Main baggage compartments are usually closed by **two zippers coming together**, anywhere along the zipper track. When united, they form a common canal where a ludicrous luggage lock could be employed. Thus, it's easy to use a plastic coated twist-tie to secure main compartment zippers together. (Pic below left.)



**External zipper compartments, however, are rarely closed by the meeting of two zippers.** To secure external zipper compartments, insert a **large, sturdy safety pin** just beyond the place where it closes, giving you an anchor to twist-tie the zipper to. (Pic above right.) Yes, a safety pin could snag on something. But, but it takes far more force to break a sturdy safety pin than it does to open an unsecured zipper.