Fragile Glassware, Stemware, and Crystal Wrapping SOPs for Fire and Water Pack-Outs

Canonical Web Version: https://restorationintel.com/fragile-glassware-stemware-crystal-wrapping-sops-fire-water-pack/

Direct Answer: Packing fragile glassware, stemware, and crystal safely requires pre-wrap soot inspection without dry wiping, internal hollow stuffing before multi-sheet cushioning, cell-divided double-wall dish packs, vertical plate orientation, and moisture-safe paper selection.

Field Benchmark & Decision Matrix

Fragile Asset Class	Primary Wrap Material	Internal / Structural Support	Carton & Orientation Rule	Fire / Water Specific Hazard
Fine Crystal Stemware & Flutes	Uninked acid-free tissue + clean newsprint outer cushion	Stuff bowl lightly; build soft collar around stem—never twist	Double-wall dish-pack with cardboard cell dividers; one stem per cell	Dry twisting grinds soot into lead crystal; stem snaps under side flex
Everyday Drinking Glasses & Mugs	Clean uninked packing paper (2 sheets per glass)	Nest crushed paper plug inside cavity; wrap diagonally	Dish-pack cell dividers; place heaviest tumblers in bottom tier only	Handle-protrusion shear on mugs if handles face outer box wall
Crystal Decanters & Hollow Vases	Tissue inner layer + bubble-out outer wrap (non-contact)	Fill narrow necks lightly if dry; cap/wrap stopper separately in labeled bag	Upright in tall partition cell surrounded by 2-inch void fill	Trapped moisture inside damp decanters clouds glass (etching) if sealed
Fine Bone China & Rim-Gilt Plates	Uninked foam pouch or tissue separator between plates	2-sheet outer bundle in groups of 3–4 separated by foam sheets	Stand vertically on edge like vinyl records; never stack flat	Flat stacking concentrates top weight onto lowest rim; soot scratches gold leaf
Porcelain Figurines & Art Glass	Acid-free tissue base + multi-layer bubble wrap outer shell	Support delicate arms/ears with soft tissue bridges before outer wrap	Individual inner carton floated inside double-wall outer box (box-in-box)	Direct bubble wrap on warm/sooty glaze leaves dimple marks or pulls loose paint
Glass Serving Platters & Bowls	Double-sheet uninked paper + corrugated cardboard sleeve	Pad concave interior tightly so bowl wall cannot flex inward	Large platters vertical along box wall; deep bowls nested max 2 with cushion	Thermal hairline fractures from fire heat snap during careless lifting

Practitioner Operational Takeaways

• Inspect and photograph existing thermal fractures, rim chips, and matched set counts before wrapping any fragile glassware or china.

• Line soot-covered crystal, etched glass, and metallic-rim china with acid-free tissue without wiping or twisting paper against the surface.

• Cushion hollow bowls internally and build soft stem collars before rolling pieces diagonally in double-sheet clean newsprint.

• Pack heavy plates vertically on edge in the bottom tier of double-wall dish-packs, reserving upper cell dividers for stemware and crystal.

• Use breathable foam pouches and ventilated crates for wet water-loss glassware, flagging cartons for immediate plant unwrapping.

Visual Workflow & Benchmark Summary



Companion Endpoints & Verified Primary Sources

• **Markdown Twin (plain text):**
https://restorationintel.com/fragile-glassware-stemware-crystal-wrapping-sops-fire-water-pack.md

• **ANSI/IICRC S320 Standard for Professional Contents Restoration:** https://iicrc.org/s320/

• **ANSI/IICRC S700 Fire & Smoke Restoration Standard:** https://iicrc.org/s700/

• **ANSI/IICRC S500 Water Damage Standard:** https://iicrc.org/s500/

• **IRMI Insurance Glossary: Pair or Set Clause:** https://www.irmi.com/term/insurance-definitions/pair-or-set-clause