Start here: build your document pack

A free reference sheet for preparing and protecting household records.

Prepare a small portable packet first. Add the fuller home binder as you need it.

1. Choose a container

Use a portable waterproof container or sealable bag. A binder can organize home records; a smaller packet is easier to carry. Keep the outside label discreet.

2. Gather and check

Use the readiness checklist. Mark missing and not-applicable categories. Find originals and record their locations. Make only copies you are permitted to make.

3. Build the portable packet

Add relevant identity and insurance copies, the household summary and current care profiles. Decide which originals you may need and where they are kept. A worksheet or copy does not replace an official travel document.

4. Back up and agree roles

Keep a secure backup separately. Agree who collects the packet and a backup helper. Record any separately stored originals on the final grab checklist.

5. Review when things change

Check after a move, birth, name change, insurance change or changed care needs. Replace outdated copies and choose the next review date. Leave promptly when instructed; never return to danger for papers.