



Best Practices for Loading Intermodal Containers



For more information about blocking and bracing, please visit www.up.com/safeload.



Did you know that 99.9% of all Union Pacific intermodal shipments arrive damage-free? That success begins with you when you load your freight into intermodal containers. To help prevent freight damage and potential derailments, just remember two simple words – **SAFE LOAD**.



Secure the lading

 **CORRECT**
Shipment is properly secured



Look to ensure lading does not exceed 2,500 lbs. per linear foot

 **CORRECT**
Weight evenly loaded and secured down center of container



Always plan your load

 **INCORRECT**
All bales of wire improperly loaded down right side of container



Only use AAR-approved dunnage

 **INCORRECT**
Tension bars are not AAR approved



Fill the empty spaces

 **CORRECT**
Proper use of void filler and air bag



Apply appropriate bracing and fill materials

 **INCORRECT**
Improper size and application of air bag



Evenly distribute weight

 **CORRECT**
Weight evenly loaded and secured down center of container



Do not use pallets as fill material

 **INCORRECT**
Improper use of pallets