

We've recently started a collection as well, and are just leaving them in their boxes, with a couple of rubber bands to keep them from spilling everywhere if they get knocked down/dropped. No problems so far, the boxes should be sturdy enough to take at least a bit of a beating.

One recommendation I have seen for board game collections in the past is the purchase of an accurate postal scale. You can weigh the board games, and when they're returned, if the weight is accurate, you know that you don't have to count every piece. This won't catch if a few cards are gone, but much more than that it should show the difference. If you try this, get one with a large plate, ours is small and the boxes don't all fit well, it throws off our measurements a bit.

Donald Priest  
Director  
Southgate Veterans Memorial Library  
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We pretty much just store ours in the boxes they came in. We include small baggies to put the pieces in, but we just wrap a four-way rubber band around the box and circulate them that way. We've only been circulating board games for a little over a year, but it seems to work for the most part.

Valerie

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Valerie Long, MLIS  
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I thought I'd share how we're handling our games in case it's of interest to you. Most of our games are just displayed on open shelving. You'll see a few that are packed in plastic bins but those are typically smaller or have pieces/parts that are unusual. For most of our games, we have large rubber bands that hold the boxes together. Some go both top to bottom and side to side (see 3rd picture). For smaller items, we have some thick rubber bands that keep the tops secured. I didn't take a picture but know that each game comes with an inventory list that our staff generates and secures the box (usually inside the lid) for patrons to use as a reference in maintaining and returning the game. Hope this helps. Please let me know if you have any other questions and I'll do my best to answer or find out for you.

I should add that we also have puzzles for checkout. More of those tend to be in plastic boxes but it may have more to do with the box strength. If the box is in good shape, they simply have a rubber band as well.

Dana Allen  
Administrative Clerk  
Howell Carnegie District Library  
Howell, MI 48843

BCLS started a board game collection a few years ago. We keep them in their original box with a large label on the inside of the box lid listing all pieces and quantities.

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We left ours in their original boxes. We put them in a cloth Friends of the Library bag (collection sponsor) when we check them out. But that's it. We decided to keep it simple because we don't have much money in the games.

Gretchen Evans  
Director  
Paw Paw District Library  
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We leave them in the box and get game board rubber bands to keep the lids on. All the pieces inside are bagged separately with like items. The outside of the box has a sticker which includes all the number of items. If the box is flimsy we will sometimes place contact paper around it to strengthen it.

I hope this helps!

Mary Cook  
Library Director  
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We leave in the original box. A few that have tops that come off easy we have fabric velcro straps around to keep closed.

Deanna Riggleman, Director  
Tamarack District Library  
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Ours are in the original box. Pieces are in ziploc baggies with the number of pieces written on it with marker. List of pieces in notebook at the desk and barcodes are on the outside lid of the game and in our card catalog. Happy New Year!!

Joann Simmons  
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When I worked at a library with a board game collection, we left them in the box and used Grifiti brand cross-style rubber bands to keep them closed. All of the component parts were listed on a laminated sheet, and all other paper (instructions, paper money, etc.) were laminated as well. We asked patrons to check to make sure all the component parts were in the box before they left the library, since they would otherwise be responsible for replacement costs.

I now work at a library with a more general tools collection, which has STEAM kits, outdoor games, and board games. For that collection, we put board games in a large tote bag with the laminated components inside.

Best of luck!

Shira

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CADL puts ours in plastic containers. We then put an inventory on the front with pictures so it is easy for patrons to make sure they have all the pieces when they turn it in. Many of our games are in ArtBin containers, they work relatively well and we've only had a few of the plastic containers break.

Jessica Goodrich (*she, her, hers*)  
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We have ours just in their regular boxes.

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At my previous library, we had a board game and puzzle collection. We kept them all in their original boxes. At my current library, we are preparing to start a "library of things" that will contain board games. We plan to keep them in their original boxes if possible.

Hope this info helps,  
-Laura Orłowski, director  
Jonesville District Library

We at Farmington Community Library, have them rubber banded with special type that covers them by all four sides.

I hope this makes sense.  
Happy New Year.

Emma DeCenso  
Head of Adult Services  
Farmington Community Library  
Farmington Hills, MI

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We have left most of them in the boxes. If the box is too beat up we move it to a plastic container.

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We've been lending board games for a few months now. We keep them in the original boxes. We cover the exterior of the lid with clear self-adhesive plastic and we reinforce the interior corners of the bottom of the box with fiber tape. We secure each box with two large rubber bands – the bands are large enough and light enough not to warp the box. We affix a list of the contents of the game (i.e. 1 game board, 12 red disks, 12 blue disks, 52 cards, 1 rules sheet) inside the lid. We place the playing pieces and cards in labeled Ziploc bags. So far this has been working well.

Most of our card games come in lightweight cardboard boxes that are easily torn, and these we have placed in clear plastic boxes (originally intended to hold 4x6 index cards). The card games that come in more robust boxes (like Exploding Kittens) are left in the original box and processed like board games.

We recently received a gift of 19 jigsaw puzzles in excellent condition, and we've started circulating them as well.

Hope this helps! Our patrons are really enjoying the games. If you need further information, let me know.

Teresa L. Stannard, Library Director  
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We leave ours in the box for the most part and put one of those silicone h-bands around them so they stay shut.

Sincerely,  
Adrienne Breznau  
she/her/hers  
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