

Packing List

Software Testing Conference

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- 1. Business cards:** As much conferences are about sharing ideas and learning new techniques, they're also an important forum for networking. Don't forget to pack your business cards to give out as you meet fellow members of the testing community and remember to ask for theirs too. This makes it easier for you to follow-up on interesting conversations after the conference and recall who you met.
- 2. Notebook or planner:** A notebook or planner is an important tool to ensure that you make the most of your experience. While keynotes are typically scheduled to allow everyone to attend, smaller talks and workshops often overlap. Be sure to create a schedule so that you don't miss the speakers and training sessions that you think will be of most value to you.
- 3. A pen:** In addition to carrying your notebook or planner, don't forget to bring a pen to quickly jot down all the information and tips you're sure to learn. It's typically not a good idea to bring a handheld recording device as this usually requires special permission from the speaker. So to be safe, bring your writing instruments!
- 4. Water bottle:** As conferences are typically full-day events, make sure you keep hydrated by carrying a water bottle around! It'll also save you from going in and out of conference halls and rooms, which could end up distracting the speaker or session leader.
- 5. Snacks:** While some conferences are well equipped with a snacks and refreshments station, others are not. It's a good idea to carry around some nuts, a light sandwich, or granola bars to give you energy throughout your day.

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6. Sweater: When you settle into your seat for the speaker you've been waiting months to listen to and learn from, the last thing you want to worry about is how uncomfortable you may be because of the temperature in the room. Bring a light sweater just in case the large conference hall gets cold, as they sometimes do.

7. Comfortable shoes: Again, it's all about being comfortable in order to enjoy your conference experience to the fullest. Be it going to and from the conference location, waiting in line at the registration or information table, or hastily trying to make it to the next talk or workshop, keep in mind that conferences typically involve a lot of standing and walking from one location to the next. Be sure to pack adequate footwear to avoid blisters and keep your feet happy!

8. Memory stick: If you're a speaker at the software testing conference, it's always a good idea to keep a back-up of your talk or any documents that you might need on a USB or hard drive. If not, a USB is still a good way to showcase your work as you meet many enthusiastic testers who would be more than happy to share their work with you as well.

9. Portable battery and charge cables for your phone and devices: Save yourself the trouble of standing by an outlet and bring a portable battery and all the cables necessary to charge your phone and devices. In addition to keeping connected and coordinating with your conference friends, you'll be able to fully immerse yourself in each event and make new acquaintances instead of hanging out in the corner by yourself.

10. A great attitude and desire to make friends and learn: Perhaps the best thing about software testing conferences is that you're surrounded by people who are just as interested and invested in software testing as you are so enjoy yourself! Keep a fresh and open mind as you learn, share, and explore new ideas. Don't be shy to introduce yourself either. This is the best time to create lasting professional relationships with people from all over the world.