

Eight Discarding Guidelines

1. Protect your honours. Avoid discarding from holdings like Kx, Qxx, Jxxx if there is possibility of making a trick.
2. **Keep length with dummy. With 4 cards in a suit, keep that suit if dummy also has 4 cards (unless all your cards are lower than dummy's lowest card).**
3. Keep length with declarer. If declarer has bid a suit, try to keep 4 cards in that suit as well.
4. Watch declarer's discards. It's often a good idea to discard the same suit that declarer is discarding.
5. If you think partner has a long suit, try to keep a card in that suit if you think you may gain the lead.
6. If you wish to signal strength in a suit, try to signal by discarding a high-ish card in that suit, or a low card in another suit. High Encourages – Low Discourages (HELD).

Additional Discarding Guidelines for Suit Contracts Only

7. If dummy has a short suit, but declarer does not try to ruff that suit in dummy, it may be because he has no losers to ruff, so that may be a safe suit to discard. (Keep length with dummy).
8. It's often safe to discard a suit that declarer has already ruffed in hand (unless you need to keep length with dummy).