Dorm Room Essentials Checklist

Whether you're heading to college or sending a child off, pick up these essentials for dorm living.



Bedroom

- [ ] Alarm clock - So you can make that 8 a.m. biology class.
- [ ] Bed linens - Bring your own comforter, sheets, and pillow(s). You may want to have two sets of linens—laundry tends to pile up! Note: Check whether the dorms have regular twin or extra-long twin beds.
- [ ] Clothes hangers - Bring just one type of hanger, and your closet will look more orderly.
- [ ] Clothing - There’s only so much room in a dorm closet, so pack just enough clothing to make it from one laundry day to the next.
- [ ] Desk lamp - Essential for late-night cramming while your roommate is sleeping.
- [ ] DVD player, stereo, and television - They can’t be too large or powerful if you’ll be sharing a room with others. Contact your roommate(s) before moving in and coordinate who will bring what.
- [ ] Laundry basket - The lighter the better, as you might have a long walk to the laundry room.
- [ ] Posters, pictures, and other decorations - You want your room to have a bit of personality, so bring along some artwork and pictures of family and friends.
- [ ] Storage boxes and stackable crates - Great for stowing things under the bed or in a little-used corner.

Bathroom

- [ ] Bath linens - Bring your own washcloth and towels. Two sets are better than one.
- [ ] Bathrobe - A must-have for the trip to the bathroom.
- [ ] Flip-flops - Shower shoes are essential for anyone who shares a public bathroom.

- [ ] Shower tote - It’s much easier to transport your toiletries to the bathroom in a handy carrier.

Kitchen

- [ ] Appliances - Find out what appliances you are permitted to have (such as a toaster oven), and coordinate with your roommate(s).
- [ ] Dishes, glasses, and utensils - Even if you’ll be eating most of your meals in the cafeteria, it’s nice to have these on hand.
- [ ] Snacks - Sometimes you need a boost while writing that thesis on chaos theory.

Personal

- [ ] Important papers Be sure to pack any important documents or ID cards you may need, such as a driver’s license, registration forms, and financial-aid forms. If you plan to get a job, bring a copy of your birth certificate as proof of age.
- [ ] Medications If you require prescription medications, bring enough with you to last until the next time you go home, or make sure that you can refill them at a pharmacy on campus or near the school.

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