

College Dorm Essentials: What to Bring to College

Downloadable move-in day checklist - print, pack, and check items as you go.

Pack First (move-in day)

- Photo ID + student ID card info
- Dorm address + move-in instructions
- Keys / keycard + car key
- Phone + charger + power bank
- Wallet (cash, card)
- Water bottle
- Snacks for the car
- Basic meds you use
- One change of clothes
- Toiletry bag (travel size)

Tech + Study

- Laptop + charger
- Headphones / earbuds
- USB drive / external storage
- Surge-protected power strip
- Extension cord
- Desk lamp
- Backpack
- Notebooks or binder
- Pens, highlighters
- Planner / calendar

Bedding (fits your bed size)

- Twin XL sheets (2 sets)
- Pillows + pillowcases
- Comforter / duvet
- Blanket (lightweight)
- Mattress pad or topper
- Laundry bag or hamper

Clothes

- Everyday outfits (7-10 days)
- Workout clothes
- Sleepwear
- Light jacket or hoodie
- Rain jacket / umbrella
- Shoes (daily + shower + dress)
- Laundry detergent pods
- Stain remover pen

Bathroom

- Shower caddy
- Towels (2-3) + washcloths
- Shower shoes
- Toothbrush + toothpaste
- Soap / body wash
- Shampoo + conditioner
- Deodorant
- Hair brush / comb
- Razor + shaving items
- Toilet paper (backup)

Room Setup

- Hangers
- Under-bed storage bins
- Command strips / hooks
- Small tool kit (mini)
- Scissors
- Tape measure
- Trash can + liners
- Reusable tote bags

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Cleaning + Health

- Disinfecting wipes / spray
- Paper towels
- Hand soap
- Trash bags (small)
- Mini broom / dustpan
- First aid basics (bandages)
- Thermometer
- Cold meds + pain reliever
- Sunscreen

Nice to Have

- Small fan
- Mini vacuum
- Bedside caddy
- Whiteboard + markers
- Laundry drying rack
- Throw rug (if allowed)
- Small safe / lockbox
- Extra phone charger

Food + Kitchen Basics

- Microwave-safe bowl + plate
- Mug + water cup
- Utensils
- Reusable food containers
- Mini fridge items (if allowed)
- Can opener (if needed)
- Dish soap + sponge

Don't Bring (often restricted)

- Candles / incense
- Hot plate / toaster (check rules)
- Space heater
- Air fryer (if not permitted)
- Nails in walls / heavy mounts

Documents

- Health insurance card
- Emergency contacts list
- Medication list (if relevant)
- Bank info (if needed)
- Class schedule / portal login

Last Night Check

- Confirm move-in time slot
- Charge devices
- Pack clothes for day 1
- Label bins and bags
- Screenshot directions + parking
- Set aside trash bags and wipes