

Checklist

College Dorm Packing Checklist

THOUGHT CATALOG®

Starting college is no easy transition. Among the new places to go on campus and the interesting people to meet, it is easy to get caught in a whirlwind of activity. While this can be stressful, your college dorm room doesn't have to be. We've created the ultimate college dorm room checklist for your ease. Let this college dorm room checklist be your guide and help you create the BEST dorm room. With this ultimate college packing list, dorm life will be a breeze.

Checklist #1: Storage

College dorm rooms can be pretty small. So now's the time to get creative and maximize space. This is the first on your dorm room checklist because space is important when it comes to storing these dorm room essentials. Ideally, things should take up only a little bit of room so you can pack in a lot of stuff.

Storage bins

Under the bed storage trays

Mini tool kit

Stackable desk trays

Checklist #2: Dorm Room Essentials

In your college packing list, you will NEED this stuff. It's a basic in any functional college dorm room.

Bedside lamp

Desk lamp

Mini trash can

Fan (if you aren't lucky enough to have AC)

Drying rack for your laundry

Bulletin board (great for putting up flyers)

Checklist #3: Desk Supplies

No college checklist is complete without desk supplies. While you may be doing a lot of work at the library, your desk could easily become an important space for last minute studying and writing.

Stapler and staples

Printer paper (if you have a printer)

Index cards

Tape

Scissors

Pens

Pencils (plus a sharpener and extra erasers)

Calculators (Can't forget about those intro math classes)

Notebooks

Agenda/planner
Folders with pockets
Paper clips and rubber bands
Sticky notes
Pencil Case
Highlighter pens
Ruler
Post-it flags
Checklist #4: Laundry
Do yourself a favor and don't save your laundry for the last minute. Trust me.

Laundry bag
Laundry basket (You will need this to get to the laundry room)
Laundry detergent
Stain remover
Mini sewing kit
Lint brush
Dryer sheets

Checklist #5: Bedding/Linens

Just be prepared that the little twin bed mattress will not be the most comfortable thing. However, you can still make it luxurious and cuddly.

Two sets of sheets and pillowcases
A mattress pad (for those uncomfortable dorm beds)
Bed risers
Duvet cover
Two Pillows
Two blankets
Comforter (look into the size of your mattress beforehand)
Three bath towels for showering
Two hand towels

Checklist #6: Toiletries

While this list is obviously very personalized, here are the basics for all your bathroom needs.

Aspirin or Tylenol
Band-aids
Shower caddy (The bathroom may be farther than you think)
Shower shoes (Cheap flip flops- trust me, you need these for communal bathrooms)
Shampoo
Conditioner
Hand sanitizer

Lotion
Body wash
Cough drops
Tweezers
Nail clippers
Vitamins
Cotton swabs/Q-tips
Tums
Face wash
Hair styling products
Toothpaste and toothbrush
Floss
Comb/brush
Hair dryer/straightener/hair curler
Deodorant
Makeup products
Makeup remover
Razor
Checklist #7: Electronics

Most of these you would never even leave your dorm or apartment without. But here are just some friendly reminders.

Cell phone
Laptop
Head phones
Phone charger
Laptop charger
Portable speakers
Multiple cord power strip
HDMI cord (Trust me, they come in handy)
Surge protector
Checklist #8: Clothing

Again, this will be varied. Be mindful of the size of your closet. Here are the basics.

Underwear
Socks
Shirts
Sweatpants
Sweatshirts
Sweaters
Workout clothes
Slippers
Flip flops
Sneakers
Boots

Casual shoes
Pants/jeans
A business casual outfit or two
A formal outfit for dances/formals
Light jacket
Heavy coat
Scarf and gloves
Warm hat
Baseball hat
Dress shoes
Swimsuit

Checklist #9: Household Items

Some people have a living space with a kitchen, others don't. See what applies to you and your residence hall.

Paper towels
Strainer
Pots and pans
Utensils
Cups
Thermos
Bowls
Plates
Trash bags
All purpose cleaner (and other cleaning supplies)
Dish soap
Hand soap
Tissues
Mugs
Water bottle
Can opener
Measuring cups
Blender
Cutting board
Cutting knives

Checklist #10: Shared Items

You will need to collaborate with your roommate on this one.

TV
Coffee maker
Mini fridge

Microwave

Rug for the room or other floor decor

Posters or other decor to brighten up those dreary dorm walls

Checklist #11: Anything and everything else

There are just so many things you can bring and a world of dorm room decor that you can explore. Dorm shopping can be fun, so here are a few more essentials.

Umbrella

Lanyard for your keys

Backpack

Sports equipment like a soccer ball or frisbee

Books

Record Player

Plants

Framed photos

Ironing board

String lights

You can use this college packing list for years to come, even if you aren't living in a college dorm anymore. This list is still perfect for any college apartment and for any college student. Honestly, this list works for any apartment or adult living situation in general.