

Dorm Bathroom Essentials Checklist

Shared Bathroom, Suite Bathroom, and Shower Caddy Prep

A realistic bathroom packing and planning guide for dorms, communal bathrooms, suite bathrooms, and move-in day shopping.

SHOWER CADDY	TOWELS	TOILETRIES	CLEANING	RULE CHECK
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What this PDF includes: bathroom setup planning, shower caddy essentials, towel and laundry tips, toiletries, suite bathroom supplies, roommate/shared item planning, what to buy before move-in, what to wait on, what to ask your roommate first, and what to check with housing.

Dorm bathroom type	Student / room	Roommate(s)

Quick Start

☐	Buy shower shoes, towels, a caddy, basic toiletries, and laundry basics before move-in.
☐	Wait to buy bulky bathroom storage until you know your room and bathroom setup.
☐	Ask your roommate before buying shared items like bath mats, toilet paper, or cleaning supplies.
☐	Check your school rules for candles, plug-in scents, appliances, and bathroom storage limits.
☐	Pack your first shower items where you can reach them on move-in night.
☐	Choose quick-dry towels if storage and ventilation are limited.

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Plan what to buy, what to skip, and how to make dorm life easier.

Know Your Bathroom Setup

Bathroom essentials change a lot depending on whether you use a communal bathroom, suite bathroom, or private bathroom.

If your setup is...	Prioritize	Wait or ask first
Communal bathroom	Portable shower caddy, shower shoes, robe or towel wrap, quick-dry towel.	Bulky storage, extra decor, anything that needs counter space.
Suite bathroom	Shared cleaning plan, toilet paper, hand soap, trash bags, plunger, bath mat.	Ask roommates before buying shared supplies or decor.
Private bathroom	Basic cleaning supplies, towel hooks, toilet brush, small trash can, mirror cleaning.	Wait on organizers until you see counter and cabinet space.
No nearby bathroom	Shower bag, robe, slippers, small personal trash bag, travel-size toiletries.	Overpacking full-size bottles if you have to carry everything.

Shower Caddy Essentials

Your caddy should be easy to carry, drain well, and only hold what you actually use.

Shampoo	Hair ties or clips
Conditioner	Skincare basics
Body wash or soap	Contact lens case/solution if needed
Face wash	Small towel or washcloth
Razor and shaving cream if needed	Shower shoes or slides
Toothbrush and toothpaste	Period products if needed
Deodorant	Small leak-proof toiletry bag
Comb or brush	Travel bottles if space is tight

What to skip: Do not fill your caddy with every product you own. Start with daily-use basics, then add items after you learn your routine.

Towels, Shower Shoes, and Drying System

The goal is to keep wet items from sitting in your room. Damp towels and caddies make small dorms smell fast.

2 bath towels or quick-dry towels	Command hooks if allowed by housing
1 robe, towel wrap, or oversized cover-up	Small laundry bag for towels
2-3 washcloths or face towels	Mesh or drainable shower caddy
Shower shoes or waterproof slides	Separate bag for dirty shower shoes if needed
Over-door hook if allowed	Extra hand towel for suite bathrooms

Towel Plan

Item	How many?	Where it dries / lives	Notes
Bath towel			
Washcloth / face towel			
Robe or wrap			
Hand towel			

Daily Bathroom Hygiene

Keep toothbrush and razor off shared counters.	Hang towels so they fully dry.
Close bottle caps before carrying your caddy.	Wash towels weekly, sooner if they stay damp.
Dry caddy after showering if water sits in the bottom.	Keep personal trash in a small bag if bathrooms are far away.

Toiletries and Personal Care Checklist

Start with the products you use every week. Dorm bathrooms are not the place to bring every backup bottle from home.

☐	Toothbrush	☐	Body lotion
☐	Toothpaste	☐	Razor if used
☐	Floss	☐	Nail clippers/file
☐	Mouthwash if used	☐	Tweezers
☐	Deodorant	☐	Cotton swabs or rounds
☐	Hairbrush or comb	☐	Makeup remover if used
☐	Hair ties/clips	☐	Period products if needed
☐	Face wash	☐	Contact solution/case if needed
☐	Moisturizer	☐	Glasses/contacts backup
☐	Sunscreen	☐	Basic first-aid items

Pack Separately for Move-In Night

☐	Toothbrush and toothpaste	☐	Deodorant
☐	Face wash and moisturizer	☐	Medicine or contacts you need overnight
☐	Shower shoes	☐	Period products if needed
☐	Towel and pajamas	☐	Small trash bag or zip bag for personal items

Buy before move-in: essentials you need for the first shower and first morning. **Wait until you know your room:** bulky organizers, extra bins, decorative bath items, and duplicate products.

Suite or Private Bathroom Supplies

Suite bathrooms need more shared planning than communal bathrooms because students usually handle more of the cleaning themselves.

☐	Toilet paper	☐	Disinfecting wipes or spray
☐	Hand soap	☐	Mirror/glass cleaner
☐	Small bathroom trash can	☐	Paper towels or cloths
☐	Trash bags	☐	Toilet bowl cleaner
☐	Toilet brush	☐	Shower curtain/liner if not provided
☐	Plunger	☐	Air freshener only if everyone agrees
☐	Bath mat	☐	Extra hand towels
☐	Shower cleaner	☐	Shared supply bin

Ask Your Roommate First

Shared item	Who buys it?	Budget	Notes
Toilet paper / wipes			
Hand soap			
Bath mat / towels			
Cleaning supplies			
Trash bags			

Roommate rule: Do not assume everyone likes the same scents, cleaning products, or bathroom decor. Fragrance, allergies, and cleaning habits should be discussed early.

Check Your Housing Rules

Before buying bathroom extras, check your school housing rules. Dorms often have rules about adhesives, appliances, scent products, and shared spaces.

☐	Are over-door hooks allowed?	☐	Are hair dryers, straighteners, or hot tools allowed and where can they be used?
☐	Are Command hooks or adhesive strips allowed?	☐	Who cleans suite bathrooms: students, housing staff, or both?
☐	Can items be stored in the communal bathroom?	☐	Are shower curtains, liners, or bath mats provided?
☐	Are plug-in scents, candles, or wax warmers banned?	☐	Are personal trash cans allowed in the bathroom?

What to Wait On or Skip

Item	Verdict	Why
Bulky bathroom cart	Wait	You may not have floor space or permission to store it.
Huge towel set	Skip	Too many towels take space and stay damp. Start with 2.
Strong air fresheners	Ask first	Roommates may have allergies, asthma, or scent sensitivity.
Full-size backup bottles	Wait	They take space. Restock later if needed.
Candles / wax warmers	Check rules	Many dorms ban flame or heat-based scent products.

Bathroom Shopping Tracker

Item	Buy before?	Wait?	Ask roommate?	Price

Use this page for your school rules, roommate agreement notes, bathroom storage measurements, shopping list, or move-in reminders.

Final Bathroom Reminder

Start with the basics, keep shared spaces simple, and avoid buying bulky bathroom organizers until you see your actual room and bathroom setup.

For more dorm checklists, tools, and move-in planning guides, visit DormRoomBlueprint.com.