

Dorm Move-In Day Timeline

What to Do Before, During, and After Move-In

A realistic timeline for packing, shopping, checking dorm rules, coordinating with your roommate, and getting through move-in day without digging through every box.

What this PDF includes: a month-by-month countdown, day-before and morning-of checklists, first-night reminders, parent and roommate notes, what to pack separately, what to wait to buy, and what to check with housing.

Student / room	Move-in date	Building / floor

Quick Start

- ☐ Confirm your move-in date, time slot, parking instructions, and guest limits.
- ☐ Read your school housing rules before buying appliances, candles, curtains, or extension cords.
- ☐ Ask your roommate before buying shared items like a fridge, microwave, rug, or trash can.
- ☐ Pack a first-night bag separately so bedding, medicine, chargers, and shower items are easy to find.
- ☐ Label bins by category, not just by owner, so unpacking is faster.
- ☐ Wait to buy bulky storage until you see the actual room and under-bed clearance.

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

1 Month Before Move-In

This is the planning stage. The goal is to prevent last-minute shopping, duplicate roommate purchases, and banned-item mistakes.

[] Save your assigned move-in date and time slot.	[] Decide shared items: fridge, microwave, rug, trash can, fan, mirror, and cleaning supplies.
[] Check housing rules for appliances, candles, lights, adhesive hooks, guests, and parking.	[] Make your main packing list by category: bedding, bathroom, laundry, desk, storage, cleaning, tech, health, documents.
[] Confirm bed size, usually Twin XL, before buying sheets.	[] Order items that may sell out, like Twin XL bedding, mattress topper, shower caddy, fan, and hamper.
[] Ask your roommate what they already have or plan to bring.	[] Start a small move-in folder with ID, insurance card, housing info, and emergency contacts.

Buy before move-in: bedding, towels, basic laundry supplies, shower shoes, medicine kit, chargers, and the items you know your school allows.

2 Weeks Before Move-In

[] Create a packing station at home so dorm items do not get mixed with regular household items.	[] Label bins clearly: bedding, bathroom, desk, cleaning, laundry, storage, first night.
[] Wash new sheets, towels, and blankets if you prefer them ready to use.	[] Take photos or screenshots of housing rules, move-in map, and parking details.
[] Test chargers, power bank, lamp, fan, alarm clock, and any small tech.	[] Plan how items will fit in the car or luggage.
[] Make a first-night bag with pajamas, outfit, toiletries, medicine, chargers, towels, shower shoes, and bedding basics.	[] Set aside items you are not bringing so they do not sneak into boxes.

Shared item	Who brings it?	School allows it?	Notes
Mini fridge			
Microwave			
Rug / mirror / trash can			

1 Week Before Move-In

This is the editing stage. You are not trying to pack more; you are trying to pack smarter.

☐ Review every packed item and remove duplicates, bulky extras, and just-in-case clutter.	☐ Charge power banks and devices.
☐ Check the weather for move-in day and pack comfortable clothes and shoes.	☐ Put cleaning wipes, trash bags, scissors, tape, and paper towels in an easy-access bin.
☐ Confirm who is helping and what time everyone needs to leave.	☐ Put medication, glasses/contacts, ID, and important documents in a personal bag.
☐ Print or save move-in instructions, parking pass, and housing contact info.	☐ Text your roommate with final shared-item updates.

Wait until you know your room: bulky drawer systems, large rugs, extra lamps, large decor, closet organizers, wall shelves, and anything that depends on measurements.

Day Before Move-In

☐ Pack the car or stage luggage by priority: first-night items last so they come out first.	☐ Take photos of packed bins in case something gets misplaced.
☐ Place your first-night bag where it will not get buried.	☐ Prepare a small cleaning kit for quick desk, drawer, and surface wipe-downs.
☐ Put snacks, water, and basic medicine in an easy-access tote.	☐ Sleep as much as possible; move-in day is tiring.
☐ Check your route, parking, arrival window, and unloading rules.	☐ Do not add random last-minute items unless they solve a real problem.

Easy-access item	Where packed?	Checked?
First-night bag		
Documents / ID		
Water / snacks / medicine		

Morning of Move-In

Move-in morning is about keeping the essentials easy to reach and avoiding avoidable stress.

☐ Wear comfortable clothes and shoes you can move in.	☐ Check that the first-night bag is not buried.
☐ Eat something before leaving, even if it is small.	☐ Keep scissors, tape, wipes, trash bags, and phone charger accessible.
☐ Bring water for everyone helping.	☐ Take a quick photo of the packed car or luggage before leaving.
☐ Confirm your ID, housing info, key pickup details, and parking pass.	☐ Text your roommate your ETA if you are coordinating setup.

During Move-In

☐ Check in and get keys or access card before unloading everything.	☐ Build the room around big items first: bed, desk, dresser, fridge, and rug.
☐ Inspect the room and take photos of existing damage before setting up.	☐ Keep walkways clear so nobody trips over bins.
☐ Wipe the desk, dresser, closet shelf, bed frame, and windowsill before unpacking.	☐ Break down boxes and take trash out as you go.
☐ Set up bedding early so you have a place to sit and sleep later.	☐ Do not rush decor. Function first, cute after.

Move-in rule: Unload, clean, build the bed, set up essentials, then decorate. If you start with decor, the room gets chaotic fast.

Task	Assigned to	Done?
Pick up key / card		
Room damage photos		
Surface wipe-down		
Trash / boxes removed		

First Night in the Dorm

Your first night should be about sleeping, showering, charging your phone, and knowing where your basics are.

☐ Make the bed fully before you are exhausted.	☐ Take out food trash before sleeping.
☐ Find pajamas, next-day outfit, shower items, towel, and shower shoes.	☐ Check the temperature and set up a fan if allowed.
☐ Plug in phone, laptop, watch, and power bank.	☐ Message family or whoever needs to know you are settled.
☐ Place medicine, glasses/contacts, ID, keys, and wallet in one spot.	☐ Do not unpack every box at midnight. Prioritize sleep.

First Week Checklist

☐ Finish unpacking one zone at a time: bed, desk, closet, bathroom, laundry.	☐ Set up a weekly reset time for trash, laundry, and cleaning.
☐ Test the laundry room before you desperately need clothes.	☐ Find the nearest dining hall, mailroom, laundry, printer, and campus safety info.
☐ Buy only the missing items you actually noticed using the room.	☐ Adjust storage if piles are forming in the same spot.
☐ Talk with your roommate about quiet hours, guests, cleaning, and shared items.	☐ Return or donate anything you brought but clearly do not need.

First-week reminder: The best dorm setup is not the one that looks perfect on day one. It is the one that still works after classes, laundry, snacks, and real life start.

Parent and Helper Reminders

☐ Confirm parking and unloading rules before arriving.	☐ Do not overbuy before seeing the room.
☐ Bring water, snacks, paper towels, wipes, and trash bags.	☐ Take a break if the room gets crowded or stressful.
☐ Let the student decide where daily-use items go when possible.	☐ Leave the student with essentials easy to find, not buried in decor bins.

Roommate Reminders

☐ Ask before moving shared furniture or your roommate's items.	☐ Do not buy duplicate bulky items without checking first.
☐ Agree on fridge space, trash, guests, lights, temperature, and quiet hours.	☐ Talk about cleaning before the room becomes messy.
☐ Decide what is shared and what is personal.	☐ Keep the first conversation friendly, not bossy.

Pack Separately / Wait / Check With Housing

Pack separately	Wait to buy	Check with housing
Bedding basics, towel, shower shoes, toiletries, pajamas, chargers, medicine, ID, first outfit, water bottle, snacks.	Large rug, bulky closet systems, extra lamps, large storage drawers, decor, extra seating, printer, extra dishes.	Microwave wattage, mini fridge size, extension cords, candles/wax warmers, adhesive hooks, curtains, bed risers, guest limits.

Best move: Bring the essentials, measure the room, live in it for a few days, then buy the exact storage and decor you actually need.

Custom Move-In Timeline and Notes

Use this page for your school-specific move-in time, parking rules, roommate plans, last-minute shopping list, or family reminders.

Date / time	Task or reminder	Who handles it?	Done?

Notes

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