

First Apartment Essentials Checklist

Everything your dorm quietly provided that you now have to buy yourself. Confirm what your apartment already includes, then buy in order of need.

DormRoomBlueprint.com

BEDROOM

Furniture

- Bed frame or platform
- Mattress (buy new) + mattress protector
- Nightstand or small bedside surface
- Dresser or wardrobe
- Desk + desk chair (if you work from home)
- Full-length mirror

Bedding

- Sheets - 2 sets (sized to your new bed, not Twin XL)
- Comforter or duvet + cover
- Pillows + pillowcases
- Throw blanket

Extras

- Hangers (more than you think)
- Bedside lamp
- Curtains + rod + blackout liner
- Hamper or laundry bag

LIVING ROOM

- Seating - sofa, loveseat, or chairs
- Coffee table or ottoman
- TV stand (a small dresser works)
- Floor lamp or table lamps
- Rug to anchor the space
- Side table
- Curtains
- A few decor pieces (after you've lived in it a bit)

KITCHEN

Cookware & Bakeware

- Frying pan (10-12 inch)
- Saucepan (2-3 quart)
- Baking sheet
- Mixing bowls
- Colander / strainer

Tools

- Chef's knife + cutting board
- Paring knife
- Cooking utensils (spatula, wooden spoon, tongs)
- Measuring cups & spoons
- Can opener
- Peeler
- Oven mitts / pot holders

Dishes - start with 4 of each

- Plates, bowls, mugs, glasses
- Flatware (forks, knives, spoons)
- Food storage containers

Cleaning & Consumables

- Dish soap + sponge / scrubber
- Dish rack or drying mat
- Dish towels
- Paper towels
- Trash can + trash bags
- Aluminum foil / plastic wrap / zip bags

Appliances (if not included)

- Microwave
- Electric kettle
- Coffee maker (if you drink coffee)
- Toaster or toaster oven

BATHROOM

- Shower curtain + waterproof liner + rings
- Tension rod (if no existing rod)
- Bath mat
- Bath towels, hand towels, washcloths
- Hand soap + toilet paper
- Toilet brush + bowl cleaner
- Plunger (buy it before you need it)
- Bathroom trash can
- Over-the-toilet shelf or storage
- Drain hair catcher
- Basic first aid kit

CLEANING SUPPLIES

- Broom + dustpan
- Mop or Swiffer-style cleaner
- Vacuum (especially if carpeted)
- All-purpose spray cleaner
- Bathroom / disinfecting cleaner
- Glass cleaner
- Bucket
- Rubber gloves
- Microfiber cloths

LAUNDRY

- Detergent (HE if your machine is HE)
- Dryer sheets or wool dryer balls
- Laundry hamper or bag
- Stain remover stick
- Quarters or laundry app (if not in-unit)

TOOLS & OVERLOOKED ITEMS

- Basic toolkit (hammer, screwdrivers, Allen keys)
- Tape measure
- Level (or a phone app)
- Command strips + picture-hanging hardware
- Extension cords + surge protectors
- Light bulbs (check what fixtures need)
- Batteries (AA, AAA)
- Flashlight
- Step stool

UTILITIES & ADMIN

- Electricity in your name
- Internet scheduled (installation can take a week+)
- Gas transferred (if applicable)
- Renter's insurance (\$10-\$20/mo, often required)
- Confirm which utilities you pay vs. landlord
- Change of address / mail forwarding

SAFETY

- Confirm smoke detectors work (test them)
- Carbon monoxide detector (if gas appliances)
- Fire extinguisher
- Know where the breaker box + water shutoff are
- Photograph the apartment on move-in day

FIRST-NIGHT BOX

- Bed setup (frame, mattress, bedding)
- Toilet paper + hand soap + a towel
- A few dishes + utensils
- Phone charger
- Trash bags
- Basic cleaning supplies

Golden rule:

Confirm what's already included before you shop, then buy in priority order - bed setup -> bathroom basics -> kitchen basics -> cleaning -> everything else. Live in the space a couple weeks before filling it; you'll buy less and choose better.