

College Dorm Checklist

A room-by-room list of essentials to furnish and set up a college dorm.

Sleep area

- Add a mattress topper sized to your dorm bed.
Confirm whether your bed is a standard or extra-long twin first.
- Set up sheets, a comforter and pillows.
- Hang or clip a small reading light by the bed.
- Add a bed riser set to create under-bed storage.
- Keep a water bottle and tissues within reach.
- Use a fan or small heater allowed by your dorm.

Desk and study zone

- Set up a desk lamp with adjustable brightness.
- Add a desk organizer for pens and supplies.
- Bring a comfortable chair cushion if seating is hard.
- Use a corkboard or whiteboard for reminders.
- Add a power strip with surge protection and USB ports.
- Keep a small wastebasket beside the desk.

Storage and organization

- Use stackable bins and under-bed containers.
- Add closet organizers, hangers and shelf dividers.
- Hang an over-the-door rack for shoes or supplies.
- Use drawer organizers for small items.
- Add command hooks for bags, keys and towels.
- Label bins so you can find things fast.

Mini kitchen

- Add a mini-fridge if your dorm allows one.
- Bring a microwave or use a shared one.
Check wattage and size limits in your housing rules.
- Pack a few plates, bowls, cups and utensils.
- Add a reusable water bottle and travel mug.
- Bring snacks and a small set of food storage containers.
- Include dish soap, a sponge and paper towels.

Cleaning and laundry

- Stock all-purpose cleaner and disinfecting wipes.
- Add a small broom, dustpan and trash bags.
- Bring a laundry hamper or bag and detergent.
- Include a stain remover and dryer sheets.
- Keep air freshener for a small shared space.
- Add a roll of paper towels and tissues.

Decor and comfort

- Add a rug to soften the floor and define the space.
- Hang posters, photos or removable wall art.
- Use string lights or a lamp for warm lighting.
- Add throw pillows and a cozy blanket.
- Place a small mirror near the door or desk.
- Include a few plants or simple personal touches.