First Apartment Checklist

Everything a first-time renter needs to buy and set up for a first apartment.

Before You Move In

- [ ] Set up electricity, gas, water and internet accounts
- [ ] Buy renters insurance
- [ ] Get keys, mailbox key and a copy if allowed
- [ ] Take photos of any existing damage for your records
- [ ] Set up bill autopay and a simple monthly budget

Kitchen Essentials

- [ ] Pots, a frying pan and a baking sheet
- [ ] Chef's knife, cutting board and basic utensils
- [ ] Plates, bowls, cups and cutlery
- [ ] Can opener, measuring cups and a colander
- [ ] Dish soap, sponges, dish towels and trash bags
- [ ] Food storage containers and aluminum foil

Bedroom & Bathroom

- [ ] Bed, mattress, pillows and two sets of sheets
- [ ] Towels, bath mat and a shower curtain with liner
- [ ] Toilet paper, hand soap and toiletries
- [ ] Toilet brush and plunger
- [ ] Hangers and a laundry basket

Cleaning Supplies

- [ ] All-purpose cleaner and a bathroom cleaner
- [ ] Broom, dustpan and a mop or sweeper
- [ ] Vacuum or carpet sweeper
- [ ] Paper towels, microfiber cloths and trash cans
- [ ] Rubber gloves and a small bucket

Living Room & Essentials

- [ ] Somewhere to sit — sofa, futon or chairs
- [ ] A small table or desk
- [ ] Lamps, light bulbs and an extension cord or power strip
- [ ] Curtains or blinds for privacy
- [ ] Basic toolkit: screwdriver, hammer, tape measure
- [ ] First-aid kit and a fire extinguisher