

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