



What to Pack (and What Not to Pack) for Your First Year on Campus

Rural Peer Advisors

This list has been carefully curated by current college students on what lesser-known items you should bring and what is better left at home when moving to campus. Check the dimensions and layout of your dorm, apartment, or house to get a sense of what other items you may want.

What to Bring	What NOT to Bring
<p>A small clip-on fan</p> <p>Most dorms and on-campus apartments do not have air conditioning, and it can get quite hot!</p>	<p>Most kitchen supplies</p> <p>One plate, one bowl, and one set of silverware works best for most people.</p>
<p>An extra-long phone charger</p> <p>Related to the extension cords, there are typically very few outlets in college housing. A long charging cord allows you to do things such as turn off the alarm on your phone without having to go across the entire room.</p>	<p>Your entire wardrobe</p> <p>Before entering college is a great time to part with some old clothes since college housing often has very little closet space. Instead, bring some staple pieces and switch out clothing over winter and summer breaks when possible.</p>
<p>Laundry bag</p> <p>Some dorms and on-campus apartments do not have laundry in-house. Laundry bags are a great way to easily transport laundry from one building to another. A folding drying rack is a good idea too.</p>	<p>Anything on the restricted list</p> <p>Look over what you are not allowed to bring with you before moving in. Some of the items may catch you by surprise (did you know you can't have a lava lamp in most dorm rooms!).</p>
<p>Ottomans or stools that double as storage</p> <p>Limited spaces can mean that you lack both storage and seating, so solve both problems with one solution!</p>	<p>Uncomfortable shoes</p> <p>Half of your college experience will be spent walking from point A to point B or chasing after the bus, and you're not going to want to do that in uncomfortable shoes.</p>
<p>An extra set of bedding</p> <p>This way you still have sheets to sleep on while you are waiting to wash the first set.</p>	<p>Candles & incense</p> <p>This one applies to dorms more so than apartments or houses, but it is unlikely that you will be allowed to burn a candle or incense in your dorm room. An oil diffuser is a popular alternative.</p>
<p>Extension cords</p> <p>Emphasis on cords, you are going to want more than one.</p>	<p>Extra school supplies</p> <p>If you use notecards often feel free to bring them, but you likely won't need anything more than a notebook and a pen for most classes.</p>