

College Dorm Checklist

Checklist · 37 items · 9 sections

Everything you need for your college dorm room. Organized by category so you can pack efficiently and not waste money on things your dorm already provides. The shorter College Checklist is good for last-minute packing. For high schoolers the Back to School Supply List covers the prior phase. Moving off-campus later: the First Apartment Checklist.

Open the editable version online:

<https://genechecklist.com/checklist/college-dorm-checklist>

BEDDING

- Extra-long twin sheets (XL twin: standard twin won't fit dorm beds)

HIGH

CONFIRM bed size with your school before buying: most are XL twin but not all

- Mattress topper (dorm mattresses are famously uncomfortable)

HIGH

- Comforter or duvet (machine washable preferred)

HIGH

- Pillows (2) and pillowcases

HIGH

BATHROOM

- Shower caddy (portable tote for shared bathrooms)

HIGH

- Flip-flops for communal showers

HIGH

- Towels (2-3 bath towels + hand towel)

HIGH

- Toiletries: shampoo, conditioner, body wash, toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant

HIGH

- Robe or towel wrap (for walking to/from shared bathroom)

TECHNOLOGY

- Laptop (required for nearly every college course)

HIGH

- Laptop charger + extra USB-C cable
HIGH
- Power strip with surge protector (6+ outlets: dorm rooms have 2)
HIGH
- Headphones or earbuds
HIGH
- Desk lamp (dorm room overhead lighting is poor)
HIGH
- Portable phone charger / power bank

KITCHEN & FOOD

- Mini fridge (check school policy: often allowed, wattage restrictions apply)
- Microwave (check if allowed: many dorms provide shared microwaves)
- Reusable water bottle and travel mug
HIGH
- Plates, bowls, cups, and utensils (1 set)
- Can opener and bottle opener
- Snacks for the room: granola bars, instant noodles, peanut butter

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

- Notebooks: one per class (college-ruled)
HIGH
- Pens, pencils, highlighters
HIGH
- Backpack (with laptop compartment)
HIGH
- Planner or digital calendar app
HIGH
- Printer (optional: most campuses have printing labs)

LAUNDRY

- Laundry bag or hamper + detergent pods
HIGH
- Dryer sheets or dryer balls
- Quarters or laundry app loaded (most campus washers use apps now)

CLEANING

- Basic cleaning supplies: disinfecting wipes, trash bags, all-purpose spray

HIGH

- Small vacuum or Swiffer (dorm floors get dirty fast)

HEALTH

- First aid kit: pain reliever, cold medicine, bandages, thermometer

HIGH

- Prescription medications (semester supply if possible)

HIGH

ROOM SETUP

- Command hooks and strips (no nails or screws in dorm walls)

HIGH

- Bed risers (if bed not lofted: adds storage underneath)

- Under-bed storage bins

- Mini fan (dorms are often hot: especially in August/September)

HIGH