

The background features a stylized illustration of an apartment. The top section shows a night sky with a crescent moon, a star, and a sun. Below this is a cross-section of an apartment interior, including a bathroom with a sink and toilet, a kitchen with a refrigerator and counter, and a living area with a window. A large red checkmark is centered over the window. The bottom section shows a light blue station wagon with a roof rack parked in front of a row of apartment buildings. There are red trees and bushes in the foreground.

YOUR FIRST APARTMENT CHECKLIST

Everything you need to know

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What You Should Buy Before You Move

Think of this section as a condensed version of your first apartment checklist: everything listed here is a must-have. Period. Make sure that you've checked off all these items before you move — then, keep everything on this list close by when you move.

Bedroom Essentials

- Mattress
- Bed, dresser, nightstand
- Sheet set
- Duvet, comforter or quilt
- Mattress topper or mattress pad
- Window treatments
- Clothes hangers/coat hangers

Living Space Essentials

- Comfy couch
- Coffee table
- Television

Bathroom Essentials

- Shower curtain
- Bath towels
- Hand towels
- Toilet paper
- Soap
- Shower curtain liner
- Shower curtain hooks

Kitchen Essentials

- Table and chairs or barstools
- Plate
- Cereal bowl
- Water glass
- Mug
- Fork, knife, spoon
- Dish towels
- Kitchen trash can
- Sandwich bags or food storage containers

Home Toolkit Essentials

- Screwdrivers (Phillips and flat head)
- Hammer
- Nails and wall hooks
- Step stool
- Power strips and extension cords
- Batteries
- Light bulbs
- Measuring tape
- Duct tape

Cleaning Essentials

- Dustpan and broom or vacuum
- A Swiffer with both dry and wet pads
- Multi-purpose liquid cleaner like Lysol or Mr. Clean
- Paper towels
- Trash bags
- Toilet scrubber
- Toilet bowl cleaning solution
- Dish Soap
- Sponges

First-Aid Kit Essentials

- Band-Aids
- Antibiotic ointment
- Anti-inflammatory such as Advil
- Thermometer

Safety Essentials

- Smoke detectors
- Carbon monoxide detector
- Fire extinguisher

What You Should Buy After (or Before) Your Move



Kitchen Space

For the kitchen section of our first apartment checklist, we're going to break down what you need in your new home to "cook like a boss," host awesome parties, and keep your takeout leftovers secure.

Dishware and Utensils

- Dinner plates
- Salad plates
- Cereal bowls
- Mugs
- Water glasses
- Serving platters
- Silverware
- Serving utensils
- Other cooking utensils you think you'll use. Consider stocking your first apartment with a spatula, spoon, and slotted spoon.

Pots and Pans

- Large stock pot
- 2-quart saucepan
- 10-inch frying pan
- Rimmed baking sheet
- Cookie sheet
- Large baking/casserole dish

Appliances

- Coffee pot and/or kettle
- Toaster or toaster oven
- Microwave
- Hand mixer
- Blender
- Crockpot or instant pot

Tools and Supplies

- Cutting knives
- Cutting board
- Measuring cups and spoons
- Mixing bowl
- Colander
- Bottle, can opener, corkscrew
- Aluminum foil and cling wrap
- Food storage containers

Spices and Pantry

- Salt
- Pepper
- Spices you cook with often
- Oil (vegetable, olive, coconut, etc.)
- Granulated sugar
- Brown sugar
- Flour
- Baking powder
- Baking soda
- Vanilla extract
- Vinegar (white wine, balsamic, etc.)
- Soy sauce
- Teriyaki sauce
- Ketchup
- Mustard

Miscellaneous Kitchen Items

- Water filter
- Recycling bin
- Silverware organizer
- Dish drying rack
- Paper towel holder
- Oven mitts

Cleaning

- Laundry basket
- Laundry detergent
- Stain remover
- Dishwasher detergent



Bedroom Space

Here's everything you need to make your first apartment bedroom a cozy, restful place to fall asleep at night.

- Bed frame
- Box spring or foundation
- Vanity or desk
- Comfy chair
- Bedside/reading lamp
- Laundry hamper
- Closet storage solutions like a hanging closet organizer or shoe rack
- Full-length mirror
- Decor items such as decorative pillows, cozy blanket, rug, wall art

FIRST APARTMENT CHECKLIST:



✓ Living Space

Whether you're in a studio or a two-bedroom, you won't want to forget to cross these items off your first apartment checklist.

- Extra lighting such as floor and table lamps
- Side tables
- Storage solutions
- Extra seating
- Window treatments
- Decorative pillows
- Throw blanket
- Decor items such as wall art, picture frames, coffee table books, houseplants, candles, vases



✓ Bathroom Space

We're here to make sure you don't get so excited about choosing your hand soap scent that you forget to purchase a toilet scrubber! Check that you have everything you need for your first apartment bathroom.

- Window treatments
- Bathmat and/or bathroom rug
- Bathroom wastebasket
- Toilet paper holder
- Plunger
- Storage solutions for your toiletries
- Tissues
- Hand soap and lotion
- Small vanity mirror
- Air freshening spray



✓ Miscellaneous Items

- Reusable water bottle
- Sewing kit
- Iron and ironing board
- Command hooks
- Space heater
- Window AC
- Light bulbs
- Umbrella
- Broom and dustpan
- Scissors
- Scotch tape
- Chip clips

✓ Did we forget something you need? Add it here:

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Ready to cross everything you need for your first apartment off the list? Take this checklist with you when you start shopping, and you'll be all set.