

Dorm Room Basics:

What to Pack and What to Leave at Home

Because space is limited in dorm rooms, knowing what to pack and what to leave at home is crucial. Your teen will probably want to pack most of their belongings, so you may need to coach them on what should be left behind. Here is a guide to help you and your child pack for dorm room living.

What to Pack

Room Essentials

The dorm room should be your child's home away from home, so don't forget to pack:

- Bedding (twin-size sheets, comforter, pillows, mattress pad)
- Desk lamp
- Alarm clock
- Rug
- Wastebasket (Required)
- Box fan or a small desk fan

Clothing

If your teen will be able to come home from time to time during the school year, they don't need to pack clothes for every season. They should pack for one season and then switch the clothes out the next time they're home. This will leave them with a lot more closet space. Just make sure they pack:

- Jeans
- Shorts
- T-shirts
- Long sleeved shirts
- Walking shoes
- A 21-day supply of underwear and socks
- formal outfits for church and special occasions
- Swimsuit (one-piece or tankini for girls)
- Raincoat
- Pajamas

Laundry Essentials

You won't be there to do laundry for your child, but you can make sure they have the right items to do it themselves.

- Laundry bag
- Detergent
- Fabric softener
- Stain remover stick
- Rolls of quarters
- Sewing kit
- Iron

Toiletries

Your child will have to share a bathroom, so be sure to pack a tote so they can carry the following items to and from the restroom:

- Shampoo/conditioner
- Soap
- Razor
- Deodorant
- Comb/brush
- Toothbrush/toothpaste/dental floss
- Lotion
- Hair dryer
- Towels/washcloths
- Robe
- Shower shoes
- Makeup/perfume

Miscellaneous Items

These items are often overlooked during the packing process, so be sure to put them on your child's list:

- Hangers
- Umbrella
- First-aid kit
- Checkbook
- Health Insurance Info (The school does have copies of this readily on-file)
- Cleaning supplies
- Flashlight
- Power strip and some extension cords
- Plastic cups/plates/utensils

What to Leave at Home

Basic Furniture

The dorm room will be furnished with the basics, so leave these items at home:

- Bed
- Dresser
- Desk
- Desk chair

Objectionable Items

The following items are not allowed in the dormitory:

- Microwave
- TV
- Stereo
- Candles
- Gas/charcoal grills
- Weapons
- Explosives/fireworks
- Pets

Items They Can't Live Without

Because your teen is so used to their bedroom at home, they probably want to pack as many items from

their room as possible to try and recreate it. But make sure they keep it at a minimum; there may not be room for:

- Her collection of stuffed animals (she should pick out her favorite one)
- A lot of frames with pics of family, friends, pets, etc. (she should toss out the picture frames and make a collage to hang on the wall instead. Pictures without frames can hang on the walls, we aren't able to hang frames on the walls)
- Knickknacks
- Mini-fridge (Students are able to rent a fridge from the dormitory at a minimal cost)