



## **CHECKLIST OF SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR A UNIVERSITY DORM ROOM:**

*Before you start shopping or making any plans, it's wise to contact your university to find out what they are supplying and any special rules they may have about what is and what is not allowed in their dorms. I suggest using a highlighter to highlight the items that you need and then check them off as you purchase/pack them.*

- Duvet and cover or comforter or quilt** - check with your university about the size of the bed; they are generally twin size but sometimes they have slightly off sizes, like a longer twin. Some people like to communicate with their future roommates if possible to coordinate bedding. Remember to bring extra blankets for cold nights and a cozy throw to snuggle up with while lounging around.
- Bed skirt** – this isn't a necessity but I liked having one because it would help hide all the things I had stored under the bed. Note: at some universities, there is the ability to raise your bed up on stilts. At mine you could even stack the beds to make bunk beds. If you're able to do this and plan to, you may not need the bedskirt.
- Under bed storage containers** – nice segue right? I measured out the size of a twin bed and then figured out how many containers would fit so I could maximize the space.
- Bed sheets, pillowcases, and a mattress cover** - the mattress cover is for your protection as well as to keep the university's property as clean as possible. Some of my friends brought their own mattresses as well but this is generally not allowed anymore due to the risk of bedbugs. You can usually still bring memory foam though to make the mattresses more comfortable.
- A decent desk lamp** – at the university I attended the desks were built in units with built in lights over them. The lights were horrible. A separate desk lamp was really helpful and I was able to move it so it could shine into my bed area as well in case I wanted to read or study in bed.
- Clothes hangers** – if you find a good deal, get one package more than you think you'll need. In my experience, you usually do. I liked to have some of the skirt and pants hangers too.
- Hanging shoe bag(s)** – Yes you may want one or two for your shoes (although often I find them too flimsy for many shoes and prefer a shoe rack or shoe shelves that can go into the bottom of my closet instead) but these bags can be handy for so many other things. They're great for storing pairs of socks, underwear and bras, makeup, jewelry, and other small items.
- A shower caddy** – I had to go down the hall and shower in a communal bathroom. My daughter only shared her bathroom with one other person. Either way, a shower caddy can be really handy. Often these bathrooms have little or no storage space and if you leave your supplies in a bathroom you share with even just one other person, you risk having them "borrow" your stuff without asking. Not trying to be negative here, I just find it more practical to keep it in your own space.

- **Shower shoes/flip flops** – If you share the bathroom, you'll want these. Trust me. They can double as slippers for popping down the hall to visit your friends or get something out of the vending machine.
- **Toiletries** – think about what you use on a regular basis. You may have all your own already. Great. But if you are perhaps sharing with other family members, now is the time to stock up on your own.
- **One or two plates, bowls, mugs, cups, and cutlery sets** – I liked having two so I could share with a friend if they stopped by. I also liked plastic so I didn't have to worry about breaking them. Make sure these are microwave safe if you are going to have one available to you. Or buy a few pieces of microwave cookware. I found a dishpan handy as well because none of the sinks available in residence were really big enough for doing dishes. You might want a small folding dish rack, a dish cloth or sponge, dish towel or two, and some dish soap as well.
- **Microwave** – if permitted by your university. Some allow them in rooms, some don't.
- **Plastic food containers with lids** – I liked having a few on hand for any leftovers I might have when cooking in my microwave.
- **A mini fridge** – At my university, you were not allowed to bring your own. You had to rent one from them. Check the rules before buying.
- **A small shelving unit or cabinet with drawers (or two if you have room)**– In my experience, there is never enough storage space in a dorm room. Also, I like to have a bedside table to put my phone, book, glass of water etc. on. In my first dorm room, the desk was built in right beside the bed and there were shelves over it but it didn't have any drawers in it. In my daughter's there was nothing beside the bed and no shelves in the room at all. Having a place to put all your textbooks or to store your school supplies or extra sweaters or cereal and other non-perishable food items is always a good idea.
- **Cleaning supplies** – Some dorms provide cleaning supplies like brooms and vacuums that you can sign out. I still liked having a broom, dustpan, and mini vac for quick cleanups. My daughter and her bathroom-mate were responsible for cleaning their own bathroom so a bucket with rags, sponges, cleaning products, a toilet brush, a plunger, and a mop were needed. At her university, they also conducted room inspections about every 2 months so it was extra important to keep the room clean.
- **Bath towels, hand towels, washcloths** – it's good to also have either one really big bath sheet that you can completely wrap up in or one of those towel wraps or a terrycloth robe to wear back to your room if the bathroom is down the hall or for sudden knocks at the door as you're coming out of the shower.
- **Laptop computer or tablet** – you're going to want some way of staying connected with your friends and family back home, communicating easily with classmates (and professors – most send out email updates these days), and doing your classwork and research. You may also want to bring a printer, ink, and paper for printing out assignments. Universities generally have print labs on site if needed but it can be nice to have your own right at your fingertips.
- **Other electronic supplies** – a surge protector is a good idea as it will not only give you extra outlets to use but will protect your devices. An external hard drive or a thumb drive or two is also a good idea.

- **Noise cancelling headphones** – Dorms get noisy. You may have some really important studying (or sleeping) to do even when it's not designated quiet hours. Noise cancelling headphones can be a sanity saver.
- **A television** – Most dorms have communal lounges with TVs in them but you might prefer to have your own so you don't miss your favorites. A DVD player and some DVDs so you can host movie nights with your friends is great too!
- **School supplies** – Binders with notebook paper or notebooks, pens, pencils, and whatever other supplies you prefer to have on hand. I found a pair of scissors and a glue stick to be really handy. I also liked to have a set of colored pencils or markers around because you never know when a prof might ask you to produce something creative. Or you might want to make a fun poster to celebrate a dorm mate's birthday. You will need something like a backpack to carry your school supplies and textbooks in as well.
- **Memo boards** – The dry erase memo boards can be really handy when it comes to keeping track of important reminders. I liked to have one on the inside of the door for my own personal notes and on the outside of the door for others to leave me notes if they dropped by and I was out. A bulletin board and some thumb tacks can also be a great place to put up flyers for upcoming events, a calendar, and other such items. Don't forget some fun colored dry erase markers for the memo boards!
- **Door decorations** – speaking of your door, you will probably want some ways of personalizing it and showing the world your personality. Be sure to note the university rules before going too crazy (permanent changes or ones that will cause damage to the door will not be allowed) but poster board posters, photos (be sure they are duplicates), and other such items are generally allowed.
- **Room decorations** – it was a tradition at my university for everyone to have a poster in their rooms of the place they're from and one to show the place in the world they'd most want to go to. You could also put up posters to show your idols, favorite causes, or meaningful quotes. Make your own posters with your favorite Instagram photos. Be sure to have something safe to hang up those posters with. You might find/make some other fun things like buntings and banners to hang up as well.
- **Adhesives for hanging up posters etc.** - Some universities prefer that sticky tack stuff, others like double sided tape. My tip – Cover the backs of the posters with masking tape in the areas where adhesive will be going. Then when you remove the adhesive, you won't tear the posters and will be able to use them again.
- **Digital frame** – these are so convenient and fun in dorm rooms! Fill them up with your favorite photos and then you can display them for yourself and others with the digital frame.
- **Stuffed animals** – Yes I know, you're an adult now but that won't stop you from feeling homesick. Bring along your favorite stuffed animal from childhood or buy a new one. There may very well be a night or two that you will want to hold it close and cuddle it as you get used to being away from home. I bought my daughter a stuffed German shepherd as a home away from home reminder of our pet German shepherd at home.
- **Extra pillows** – Besides the one you'll sleep on, you may want some throw pillows. Your bed will serve as a couch for you and potentially, your friends to sit on while talking and watching movies and so on, so you'll need some extra comfort. A floor pillow or two or

even a beanbag chair are other great options. You might also want a body pillow to serve the same snuggly purpose as the stuffed animals mentioned above.

- Laundry supplies** – Detergent (those pods are super handy), fabric softener, dryer sheets, and a laundry bag/hamper. I had a hamper that held a laundry bag and it was great. Stood up in the corner of my room so I could neatly store my dirty laundry and then I could remove the bag to take to the laundry room. Find out what currency your laundry machines take (quarters perhaps?) and bring a roll or two with you so you're ready to do laundry when needed. In some schools, you can deposit money onto your student card and then use that for purchases at the cafeteria or to pay for laundry.
- Drying rack** – unless all your clothing goes into the dryer, this is a great idea for hanging up the other items. I also brought a sheet of plastic that could go under the rack to protect the floor in case of any dripping.
- Medical/first aid kit** – I made my daughter a small bin labelled Doctor Mom's Get Well Soon Kit and filled it with things like cold tablets, headache tablets, cough syrup, bandaids, and other basic supplies that she might need when ill or injured.
- A fan** – this is great for helping to circulate the air (even when you have a/c), for those days when it gets hot but the university has not yet turned on the a/c, or for using as white noise at night to help you sleep.
- Alarm clock** – or use your phone or tablet for this.
- Coffeemaker or kettle** – if coffee or tea is your thing. Remember to bring some coffee or tea as well along with anything you like to add to them.
- Bicycle and bike lock** – cheap transportation for around campus and around town
- Battery operated candles** – you won't be allowed to have any other kind so if you want the ambiance be sure to bring along battery operated candles and extra batteries. You might want to invest in rechargeable batteries and a charger.
- An umbrella** – getting caught in the rain with all of your books and school supplies and no umbrella never makes for a good day.
- Can opener** – a can of chicken soup when you're feeling sick really can be comforting
- Toilet paper and paper towels** – The first is a good idea even if you're using a communal bathroom that the university keeps stocked. The toilet paper they use will be cheap and scratchy. Paper towels are great for dealing with nasty spills and other messes in your room.
- Flashlight and batteries** – for potential power outages
- Mirrors** – a full length mirror for checking your OOTD before leaving for class and a portable mirror for doing your makeup.
- Small iron and ironing board** – some residences will have these available to use but if not, you may need this especially for presentations or interviews.
- Reusable water bottle or two** – for staying hydrated while in class. You might also want an insulated travel mug for taking tea, coffee, or hot chocolate.
- Area rug** – keeps your floor warm and cozy and adds some color and personality to the room
- Over the door hooks** – these probably won't work on the door to your room but can be handy on closet doors

- **Medical information** – your health insurance card and immunization record in case you get ill or are in an accident
- **Charging station** – charge all of your devices at the same time in one unit!