

What You Really Need To Pack For College

Are you heading off to dorm life soon? Think before you pack! Don't waste precious space on stuff you won't need. Here's what to bring - and what to leave at home:



Do not bring:

A television.

Chances are, your school will provide internet TV access, so you can stream your favorite shows. On the same note, don't pack more than a few books to read or DVDs to watch in your spare time. Your schedule will be fuller than you can imagine and space is tight.

Do bring:

Noise-canceling headphones.

As considerate as your roommates may be, they'll sometimes feel like chatting when you most need to concentrate. Noise-canceling headphones will help you create that quiet space you need.

Do not bring:

A ton of food and stockpiles of toiletries.

Unless you're heading into the wilderness, you can fill up on what you need as the year goes on. It also makes sense to wait until you adjust to dorm life and can realistically determine what you will need.

Do bring:

Several weeks' worth of easy-to-prepare food and basic toiletries.

We're looking at you, ramen noodles. During those first few crazy weeks, you won't want to bother with complicated food prep or shopping trips to town. Same goes with toiletries - bring enough to last a few weeks.

Do not bring:

A mini-fridge. Your dorm may have one in the common room.

Do bring:

Energy superheroes. Think power bars, portable power banks and a nifty gadget called BedPower.

Dorm rooms, especially in older colleges, can be skimpy on outlets. Make sure your technology always has enough juice by outfitting an outlet with a power bar.

Similarly, you never know where you might be when your laptop is suddenly low on battery. A portable power bank can really come in handy.

For a power bar that also saves space, consider the BedPower. It attaches right to your bed! This can be helpful for freeing up desk space and for providing you with that nighttime charge so your phone is powered up to wake you in time for class.

Do not bring:

A lot of wall decorations and furniture.

Contrary to what college commercials will have you think, you cannot decorate your room to your heart's desire. You've got your roommates to consider, as well as what are usually tight quarters. Your dorm room probably won't be able to fit a futon, chair, end table, ottoman and bean bag. You also won't have the wall space for 500 photos of your besties.

Do bring:

A few photos and things from home, as well as space-saving furniture and necessities.

When homesickness strikes, it's helpful to have something from home to help ease the ache. Photos are also great - as long as you don't overdo it.

With regard to furniture, shop smart. An ottoman that doubles as a storage container will help you maximize the space you have. A bed riser that will double the available underbed storage is a smart choice. Huggable hangers will let you fit more clothing into your dorm closet.

Do not bring:

Textbooks.

Before you buy any textbooks, find out about your library privileges. Chances are, you can borrow the books you need instead of purchasing them.

Do bring:

School supplies! It may sound obvious, but it's often overlooked with everything else you need to pack. Some super helpful supplies that you may forget to bring include; adhesive page markers, highlighters, citation style manuals and student planners.

Remember: If you have to ask yourself whether you really need to pack something, then you can probably leave it at home.

Your Turn: What's your number one essential when packing for college? Share it with us in the comments!

SOURCES:

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