

First apartment checklist

Everything a first place needs, room by room, and what to sort out before you move in. Tick each one as you go.



Before you move in

- ☐ **Read the lease.** When rent is due and how to pay it, the rules on guests and pets, and who fixes what.
- ☐ **Renters insurance.** The landlord's policy covers the building, not your things. Some leases ask for it.
- ☐ **Electric and gas in your name.** Starting the day you move in. Ask the landlord which ones you pay.
- ☐ **Book the internet.** Installs can take a while, so book it first.
- ☐ **Change your address.** At usps.com/move, then your bank, your job and anything that comes by mail.
- ☐ **Do a move-in inspection.** Walk through with the landlord, note any damage in writing, and photograph every room, so you aren't charged for it later.

Kitchen

- ☐ **A frying pan and a pot.** Two is enough to start.
- ☐ **A good knife and a cutting board**
- ☐ **Plates, bowls, mugs and glasses.** Four of each covers you and a guest or two.
- ☐ **Forks, knives and spoons**
- ☐ **Cooking tools.** A spatula, a wooden spoon, tongs, a can opener and a colander.
- ☐ **Dish soap, a sponge and dish towels**
- ☐ **Food storage containers.** For leftovers and lunches.
- ☐ **A trash can and bags**
- ☐ **Pantry basics.** Salt, pepper, oil and a few things you like to cook.

Bathroom

- ☐ **Toilet paper.** Before anything else.
- ☐ **A plunger and a toilet brush.** Buy the plunger before you need it.
- ☐ **Towels.** Two bath towels, hand towels and washcloths.
- ☐ **Shower curtain, liner and rings**
- ☐ **A bath mat**
- ☐ **A first aid kit.** Bandages, pain relief and any medicines you take.

Bedroom

- ☐ **A mattress and bed frame**
- ☐ **Two sets of sheets.** One on the bed, one in the wash.
- ☐ **Pillows and a comforter**
- ☐ **Hangers and a laundry basket**
- ☐ **A bedside lamp**
- ☐ **Curtains or blinds.** If the windows have none.

Living room

- ☐ **Somewhere to sit**
- ☐ **A table to eat at or work on**
- ☐ **A floor or table lamp.** Many apartments have no ceiling light in the living room.
- ☐ **Power strips and extension cords**

Cleaning and laundry

- ☐ **All-purpose cleaner and paper towels**
- ☐ **A vacuum, or a broom and dustpan**
- ☐ **A mop or floor wipes**
- ☐ **Laundry detergent.** And quarters or a card, if the machines take them.

Tools and safety

- ☐ **Test the smoke alarms.** If one doesn't work, tell the landlord.
- ☐ **A flashlight and batteries**
- ☐ **A small tool kit.** Screwdrivers, a hammer, a tape measure and picture hooks.
- ☐ **Spare light bulbs**
- ☐ **A small fire extinguisher for the kitchen**

Pax's tip

If you ever claim on renters insurance, the insurer asks what you owned. Snap your things into BoxTrack as you unpack, a box for each room, and you'll have the list with a photo and value for each. Your first box is free at box-track.com.



Scan to tick it off