

First, Get Organized

Packing for college takes a lot of planning — you're moving away from home! Use the list on the opposite side to help make packing for college less of a chore. Leave plenty of time to gather the things you plan to bring from home and shop for the things you need well in advance of moving day.

Think Before You Pack

Dorm rooms are small and you'll probably be sharing the space, so try to pack as lightly as possible. Begin by walking around your house and thinking about what you use in each room.

- ▶ Consider a typical day for yourself.
 - What items do you use?
 - What items can you not live without?
- ▶ Find out whether the campus will provide certain items for you. Remember that a bed, dresser or wardrobe, desk and chair are generally included in a standard dorm room.
- ▶ Be reasonable — college life is supposed to be simple. You don't need to surround yourself with every luxury from home.



Money-Saving Tips

Stick to Generic Brands: When you're shopping for college supplies — and once you're on campus and need to restock on essentials — stick to a budget. Generic brand items tend to cost a lot less and work just as well as name brands.

Don't Pack the Entire Refrigerator: If you sign up for a meal plan at college, use it. You don't need to pack giant amounts of food for your dorm room. Remember that if you start skipping meals and buy food off campus (or order pizza delivery service), you're wasting the money you've spent on a meal plan.

Share Items With Your Roommate: Coordinate with your roommate before you move in to your dorm. Call them and talk about what you can each bring to share so you don't double up unnecessarily on certain items. You won't need two televisions, DVD players, stereos, microwaves, toaster ovens, etc.

