

# First Apartment Essentials Checklist

A phased checklist for setting up a safe, functional home without overbuying.

## Before buying

- ☐ Confirm move-in date, unit size, bed size, included appliances, and storage.
- ☐ Ask what the young adult already owns.
- ☐ Measure doorways, closets, and furniture spaces.
- ☐ Prioritize safety, sleep, food preparation, hygiene, laundry, and documents.
- ☐ Create a first-week list and a later-upgrade list.
- ☐ Keep receipts and avoid large all-in-one bundles unless every item is needed.

## Sleep and bathroom

- ☐ Mattress and bed frame if not provided.
- ☐ Correct-size sheet set and pillowcases.
- ☐ Washable comforter or blanket.
- ☐ Pillows.
- ☐ Towels and washcloths.
- ☐ Shower curtain and rings if needed.
- ☐ Bath mat.
- ☐ Toilet paper and basic toiletries.

## Kitchen

- ☐ Small cookware set.
- ☐ Skillet and saucepan if not included.
- ☐ Basic utensil set.
- ☐ Chef knife and cutting board.
- ☐ Can opener.
- ☐ Measuring cup and spoons.
- ☐ Plates, bowls, cups, and flatware.
- ☐ Food-storage containers.
- ☐ Dish soap, sponge, and drying towel.

## Cleaning and laundry

- ☐ Cleaning caddy.
- ☐ All-purpose cleaner appropriate for surfaces.
- ☐ Broom and dustpan or vacuum based on flooring.
- ☐ Trash bags and trash can.
- ☐ Laundry basket or hamper.
- ☐ Detergent appropriate for machines and skin needs.
- ☐ Basic stain treatment.
- ☐ Toilet brush and plunger.

## Safety, tools, and documents

- ☐ First-aid kit.
- ☐ Flashlight and batteries.
- ☐ Compact tool kit.
- ☐ Extension cords or power strips only if safe and permitted.
- ☐ Smoke and carbon-monoxide detector check with property management.
- ☐ Fire extinguisher location and use plan.
- ☐ Locking or secure document storage.
- ☐ Renter's insurance review.
- ☐ Emergency contact and maintenance numbers.

Use note: This worksheet is a general planning tool. It does not replace school lists, agency forms, court orders, medical instructions, licensing requirements, or required reporting.