FREE PRINTABLE · STUDIO AND ONE-BEDROOM SIZED

First *Apartment* Checklist

ESSENTIALS IN BUY ORDER · ROOM BY ROOM · BUDGET PAGE

You do not need everything on move-in day. This list sorts the essentials by when you will actually need them, so the first paycheck goes to the things that matter tonight and the rest can wait for a sale.

HOW TO USE THIS CHECKLIST

01
Pack night one
Fill one box with everything in the Night One list and move it yourself, in the car, not the truck. It is the box you open first.

02
Shop by tier
Buy Week One items in the first seven days and Month One items as the budget allows. Cross out what a parent, friend or roommate already has.

03
Wait on the rest
Big furniture, rugs and decor go on the Wait list. Live in the space for a few weeks first, then measure and buy once.

THE FOUR TIERS

1
Night one
BEFORE YOU SLEEP

2
Week one
FIRST 7 DAYS

3
Month one
FIRST 30 DAYS

4
Wait
AFTER YOU SETTLE

Page 2: night one and week one. Page 3: month one, the wait list and a budget tracker. Page 4: a low-ink copy of everything.

NIGHT ONE · KITCHEN · BATHROOM · CLEANING · SAFETY · BEDROOM · LIVING · TOOLS

TIERS 1 AND 2

Night one and *week one*

Night one is the box you move yourself. Week one is what you will reach for every day: a working kitchen, a usable bathroom and the cleaning basics. Tick as you pack or buy; cross out what you already own.

Night one box

BEFORE YOU SLEEP

- [ ] Toilet paper (2 rolls) and hand soap
- [ ] Phone charger and a power strip
- [ ] Sheets, pillow and a blanket
- [ ] One towel and a washcloth
- [ ] Shower curtain, liner and rings (if no glass door)
- [ ] Toothbrush, toiletries and any medicine
- [ ] Paper towels and a roll of trash bags
- [ ] Scissors or a box cutter
- [ ] A flashlight and a few light bulbs
- [ ] Water, snacks and a plate, cup and fork per person
- [ ] Shelf-stable breakfast for the next morning
- [ ] Lease, keys and the landlord or super phone number

Done when you could sleep, shower and eat breakfast without a store run.

Kitchen basics

WEEK ONE

- [ ] Chef knife and a cutting board
- [ ] Frying pan and a medium pot with lid
- [ ] Spatula, wooden spoon, tongs
- [ ] Plates, bowls, mugs and glasses (4 each)
- [ ] Forks, knives, spoons (4 each)
- [ ] Dish soap, sponge, drying rack or mat
- [ ] 2 to 4 dish towels and an oven mitt
- [ ] Can opener and a measuring cup
- [ ] Food storage containers with lids
- [ ] Trash can that fits the cabinet or corner

Done when you can cook one simple meal and wash up after.

Bathroom

WEEK ONE

- [ ] Bath mat
- [ ] Second towel set (one in the wash)
- [ ] Plunger and a toilet brush
- [ ] Small trash can with lid
- [ ] Shower caddy or tension shelf
- [ ] First aid kit and a pain reliever

Cleaning kit

WEEK ONE

- [ ] All-purpose spray and microfiber cloths
- [ ] Broom and dustpan, or a stick vacuum
- [ ] Bathroom cleaner and gloves
- [ ] Laundry detergent and a hamper
- [ ] Bucket or mop for hard floors

Safety

DAY ONE

- [ ] Test the smoke alarm and CO alarm on day one
- [ ] Small kitchen fire extinguisher
- [ ] Batteries (AA and 9V)
- [ ] Surge-protector power strip for the desk or TV

TIERS 3 AND 4

Month one, the *wait* list and a budget

Month one makes the place feel like yours. The wait list is where most first-apartment money gets wasted, so it stays on paper until you have lived in the rooms for a few weeks.

Bedroom

MONTH ONE

- [ ] Mattress protector
- [ ] Second sheet set
- [ ] Hangers (one style, 30 to 40)
- [ ] Bedside lamp
- [ ] Blackout curtains or a liner
- [ ] Full-length mirror (leaning or over-door)

Living room

MONTH ONE

- [ ] A place to sit for two
- [ ] Floor or table lamp for warm light
- [ ] Curtain rod and curtains
- [ ] Side table or a sturdy stool
- [ ] Command hooks and strips

Toolkit

MONTH ONE

- [ ] Screwdriver set and a hammer
- [ ] Tape measure
- [ ] Picture-hanging kit or putty
- [ ] Adjustable wrench and pliers
- [ ] Extension cord (indoor)
- [ ] Stud-free wall anchors (ask the landlord first)

Wait on these

AFTER YOU SETTLE

- [ ] Sofa and big furniture (measure the door and stairs first)
- [ ] Area rug (wait until the furniture is placed)
- [ ] Dining table and chairs
- [ ] Wall art and frames
- [ ] Extra small appliances (air fryer, stand mixer)
- [ ] Matching decor sets and throw pillows

Measure first. Buy once.

BUDGET TRACKER

TIER	BUDGET	SPENT
Night one		
Week one: kitchen		
Week one: bath and cleaning		
Safety		
Month one		
Wait list		
Total		

Fill in your own numbers. Ask family before you buy: pots, towels and toolkits are the things people most often have spare.

NOTES AND MEASUREMENTS

LOW-INK COPY

First apartment checklist, all four tiers

Night one

BEFORE YOU SLEEP

- [ ] Toilet paper (2 rolls) and hand soap
- [ ] Phone charger and a power strip
- [ ] Sheets, pillow and a blanket
- [ ] One towel and a washcloth
- [ ] Shower curtain, liner and rings (if no glass door)
- [ ] Toothbrush, toiletries and any medicine
- [ ] Paper towels and a roll of trash bags
- [ ] Scissors or a box cutter
- [ ] A flashlight and a few light bulbs
- [ ] Water, snacks and a plate, cup and fork per person
- [ ] Shelf-stable breakfast for the next morning
- [ ] Lease, keys and the landlord or super phone number

Week one: kitchen

FIRST 7 DAYS

- [ ] Chef knife and a cutting board
- [ ] Frying pan and a medium pot with lid
- [ ] Spatula, wooden spoon, tongs
- [ ] Plates, bowls, mugs and glasses (4 each)
- [ ] Forks, knives, spoons (4 each)
- [ ] Dish soap, sponge, drying rack or mat
- [ ] 2 to 4 dish towels and an oven mitt
- [ ] Can opener and a measuring cup
- [ ] Food storage containers with lids
- [ ] Trash can that fits the cabinet or corner

Week one: bath

FIRST 7 DAYS

- [ ] Bath mat
- [ ] Second towel set (one in the wash)
- [ ] Plunger and a toilet brush
- [ ] Small trash can with lid
- [ ] Shower caddy or tension shelf
- [ ] First aid kit and a pain reliever

Week one: cleaning

FIRST 7 DAYS

- [ ] All-purpose spray and microfiber cloths
- [ ] Broom and dustpan, or a stick vacuum
- [ ] Bathroom cleaner and gloves
- [ ] Laundry detergent and a hamper
- [ ] Bucket or mop for hard floors

Safety

DAY ONE

- [ ] Test the smoke alarm and CO alarm on day one
- [ ] Small kitchen fire extinguisher
- [ ] Batteries (AA and 9V)
- [ ] Surge-protector power strip for the desk or TV

Month one: bedroom

FIRST 30 DAYS

- [ ] Mattress protector
- [ ] Second sheet set
- [ ] Hangers (one style, 30 to 40)
- [ ] Bedside lamp
- [ ] Blackout curtains or a liner
- [ ] Full-length mirror (leaning or over-door)

Month one: living

FIRST 30 DAYS

- [ ] A place to sit for two
- [ ] Floor or table lamp for warm light
- [ ] Curtain rod and curtains
- [ ] Side table or a sturdy stool
- [ ] Command hooks and strips

Month one: tools

FIRST 30 DAYS

- [ ] Screwdriver set and a hammer
- [ ] Tape measure
- [ ] Picture-hanging kit or putty
- [ ] Adjustable wrench and pliers
- [ ] Extension cord (indoor)
- [ ] Stud-free wall anchors (ask the landlord first)

Wait list: sofa and big furniture, rug, dining set, wall art, extra appliances, decor sets. Free for personal use. More small-space ideas at linenandlamp.com.