

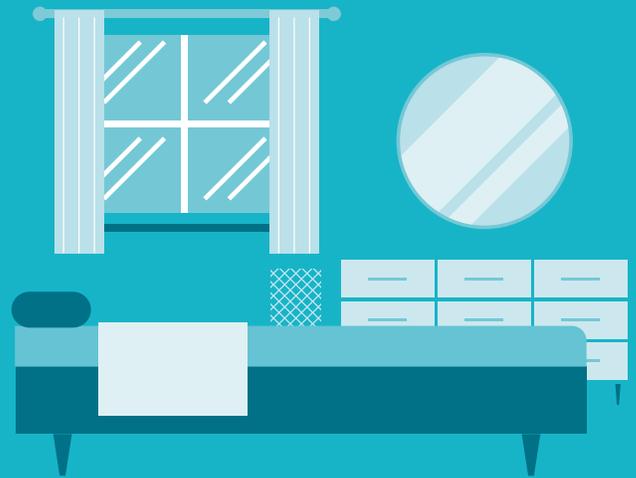
An illustration of an apartment interior. On the left is a bathroom with a sink, mirror, and toilet. In the center is a window with a large black circle containing a red checkmark. On the right is a kitchen with a refrigerator and a counter with a bowl. The background is a light blue color with various patterns like stripes and polka dots.

# YOUR FIRST APARTMENT CHECKLIST

Everything You Need to  
Know and Buy



Brought to you by: [updater.](https://www.updater.com)



**While you dream up how to decorate your new home, we're here to bring you the ultimate first apartment checklist.**

With this comprehensive list in hand, you'll be sure to have everything you need to make your apartment feel like home – from your pre-move shopping essentials to everything post-move. We've even included “To-Do” items, so you'll be totally ready to move into your new pad.



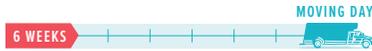


## FIRST APARTMENT CHECKLIST:



### 6 WEEKS BEFORE YOU MOVE

It's officially time to start getting your ducks in a row! You'll have a new apartment sooner than you think, so get started on your planning and packing now.



#### To-Do Checklist

- Create a budget for moving expenses.**  
And decide if you are going to hire professional movers or plan a do-it-yourself (DIY) move.
- Professional move:** Schedule in-home estimates with a moving company.  
[Find a moving company.](#)
- DIY move:**
  - Book a rental moving truck.**  
Check out our [discount with Penske](#).
  - Collect free boxes from restaurants,** liquor, grocery, office supply stores, or local bookstores or check out [UsedCardboardBoxes.com](#).
  - Get supplies.** Buy packing tape, and gather socks, t-shirts, towels, and linens to use as free packing supplies.
- Ask about moving day requirements.**  
Check with your property manager or landlord if there are any requirements (eg. reserving an elevator) for moving into your [apartment](#) and confirm parking options for your moving truck.
- Measure twice – move once!**  
If you have access to your new apartment, measure doorways, stairways, and elevators to make sure your furniture will fit.
- Pack a little every day.**



### 4 WEEKS BEFORE YOU MOVE

Think of this “To-Buy” section as your list of “big items”. You don't need to have all of these things in hand before you move (except your mattress, that is essential), but you probably want to shop around a bit to start evaluating your most important investments.



#### To-Do Checklist

- Gather all financial, legal, and medical (includes dental and optical) records in one place.**
- Find and buy renters insurance.**
- Update your voter registration!**
- Back up your computer.**

#### To-Buy Checklist

- Mattress
- Bed/headboard and nightstand
- Dresser
- Comfy couch
- Television
- Kitchen table and chairs or barstools



### 2 WEEKS BEFORE YOU MOVE

This “To-Buy” section lists some of the smaller items to purchase that you'll want to have ASAP post-move.



#### To-Do Checklist

- Remind your movers.** Now's the time to confirm your moving date and time with your moving company and/or make sure your friends and family haven't forgotten about your moving day.
- Find cable and internet providers who serve your new address,** order service, and schedule your installation appointment.
- Forward your mail and change your address** with loan providers, credit cards, banks, and the payroll department at work.

#### To-Buy Checklist

- Clothes hangers/coat hangers
- Sheet set
- Duvet, comforter or quilt
- Mattress topper or mattress pad
- Pillows
- Bedroom window treatments
- Shower curtain
- Bath towels
- Hand towels
- Toilet paper
- Shower curtain liner
- Shower curtain hooks



## FIRST APARTMENT CHECKLIST:



### 1 WEEK BEFORE YOU MOVE

This “To-Buy” section **includes all the little must-have stuff you’ll need for moving or using right away at your new place.**



#### To-Do Checklist

- Cancel and/or redirect scheduled deliveries.**
- Pack an [essentials box](#)** with everything you’ll need for your first 24 hours in your new apartment.
- Clean your new place.** A great tip for moving into your first apartment is to schedule moving day for the day AFTER your lease starts.
- Complete a walkthrough of your new place before you move anything in.** Download this [free app from RentCheck](#) that documents the move-in condition of your rental to ensure you get your security deposit back.

#### To-Buy Checklist

- Plate
- Cereal bowl
- Water glass
- Mug
- Fork, knife, spoon
- Dish towel
- Kitchen trash can
- Sandwich bags or food storage containers
- Dustpan and broom or vacuum
- Swiffer with both dry and wet pads
- Multi-purpose liquid cleaner like Lysol or Mr. Clean
- Paper towels

- Trash bags
- Toilet scrubber
- Toilet bowl cleaning solution
- Dish soap
- Sponges
- Hand soap
- Screwdrivers (Phillips and flat head)
- Hammer
- Nails and wall hooks
- Step stool
- Power strips and extension cords
- Batteries
- Light bulbs
- Measuring tape
- Duct tape
- Smoke detectors
- Carbon monoxide detector
- Fire extinguisher
- Band-Aids and antibiotic ointment
- Anti-inflammatory such as Advil
- Thermometer



### MOVING DAY

**It’s the big day!** Make sure you check these items off for your moving day to go as smoothly as possible.

#### To-Do Checklist

- Set an alarm and get up early on moving day.**
- Pick up the moving truck and any rented equipment (hand truck, packing blankets, etc.) if DIY move.** Pack heavy boxes first, and use straps to tie down items. Check out [how to pack a moving truck](#).
- If you haven’t completed your walkthrough, [download this free app from RentCheck](#)** to document the move-in condition of your rental before you move in your stuff.
- [Protect your floors and carpets during the move.](#)**
- Make your bed and set up your shower as soon as your friends/movers leave.**
- Put up window treatments in your bedroom.** Don’t have curtains or shades yet? Cover your windows with sheets for privacy for your first night.
- Return anything you’ve rented for the day** – truck, hand truck, etc.

#### To-Buy Checklist

- Pizza and drinks.** Or whatever other easy food you and your movers prefer.



## FIRST APARTMENT CHECKLIST:



### 1 WEEK AFTER YOU MOVE

Even though you're moved in, your apartment probably doesn't quite feel like home yet. This "To-Buy" section of your first apartment checklist covers **all the items you'll want to buy stat – before you really start to miss them.**

MOVING DAY



#### To-Do Checklist

- Go grocery shopping.**
- Clean out your junk** and post leftover moving boxes or unwanted furniture on [Craigslist](#) or [Nextdoor](#).
- Get to know your neighbors!**
- Explore your new neighborhood.**
- Send thank you notes** to friends and family who helped you move.

#### To-Buy Checklist

- Your big items. If there are any big items you haven't bought yet (mattress, dresser, couch, coffee table, etc.), don't forget to head on back to your shopping carts and get them ordered.
- Bed frame
- Box spring or foundation
- Bedroom window treatments
- Laundry hamper
- Closet storage solutions
- Bathroom window treatments
- Bathmat and/or bathroom rug
- Bathroom wastebasket
- Toilet paper holder
- Plunger
- Storage solutions for your toiletries
- Tissues
- Floor and table lamps

- Living room storage solutions
- Dinner plates
- Salad plates
- Cereal bowls
- Mugs
- Water glasses
- Silverware
- Other cooking utensils you think you'll use. Consider stocking your first apartment with a spatula, spoon, and slotted spoon.
- Large stock pot
- 2-quart saucepan
- 10-inch frying pan
- Rimmed baking sheet
- Large baking/casserole dish
- Coffee pot and/or kettle
- Toaster or toaster oven
- Microwave
- Cutting knives
- Cutting board
- Measuring cups and spoons
- Mixing bowl
- Colander
- Bottle and can opener
- Aluminum foil and cling wrap
- Food storage containers
- Salt
- Pepper
- Spices you cook with often
- Oil (vegetable, olive, coconut, etc.)
- Recycling bin
- Silverware organizer
- Dish drying rack
- Paper towel holder
- Oven mitts
- Laundry basket
- Laundry detergent
- Stain remover
- Dishwasher detergent



### 2 WEEKS AFTER YOU MOVE

**You're on a roll! And you're probably feeling a lot more settled now** that you've got all the basics done and things moved into your first apartment. But there may still be some more items you want or need to add function to your home – that's what we cover in this "To-Buy" section of the first apartment checklist.



#### To-Do Checklist

- Aim to unpack all your stuff within two weeks of moving in.**
- Update your driver's license** to reflect your new address.
- Copy your keys.**

#### To-Buy Checklist

- Bedside lamp
- Alarm clock
- Countertop storage
- Small vanity mirror
- Hand lotion
- Air freshening spray
- Extra living room seating
- Side tables
- Ace bandages
- Cold medicine and cough drops
- Cold pack and muscle pain relief ointments



# FIRST APARTMENT CHECKLIST:



## MOVING FORWARD

You're probably feeling pretty good about your pad by now – and you should be! You have all of the essentials for a well-functioning apartment. This section includes all the nice-to-haves that you can choose from to make your place truly feel like home.

### To-Buy Checklist

- Wall art
- Area rugs
- Cooking utensils (e.g. spatula, spoon, slotted spoon, whisk)

- Picture frames
- Decorative pillows
- Throw blankets
- Houseplants
- Candles
- Vases
- Full-length mirror
- Vanity or desk
- Comfy chair
- Muffin pan
- Loaf pan
- Cookie sheet
- Hand mixer
- Blender
- Crockpot or instant pot
- Serving utensils
- Serving platters
- Water filter
- Reusable water bottle
- Sewing kit
- Iron and ironing board
- Command hooks
- Space heater
- Window AC
- Umbrella
- Scissors
- Scotch tape
- Chip clips



Did we forget something you need? Add it here:

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Ready to cross everything you need for your first apartment off the list? Take this checklist with you when you start shopping, and you'll be all set.

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**Welcome home!**