**The First Apartment Checklist**

**Entrance / front door area**

* *Coat rack*
* [*Doormat*](http://www.firstapartmentchecklist.com/15-funny-doormats-and-welcome-mats/)

When entering the apartment you at least want to have a doormat to wipe your feet and a place to hang your coat. A room saving solution is to make a coat rack on the door.

**Living area**

* *Couch / sofa*
* *Cushions*
* *Chairs*
* *Coffee table*
* *TV / media unit*
* *Book case / shelf*
* *Floor lamp*
* *TV*
* *Speakers*
* *DVD / mediaplayer*
* *Power socket*
* *Curtains / blinds*
* *Curtain rails*
* *Wall Art*
* *Ceiling light*

In the living area you’ll want a cosy seating area with a couch and / or comfy chairs. Don’t forget cushions for your couch. Of course the TV is often going to be the centerpiece of the living area (though some people might disagree about that). If you have a TV, you can either attach it to the wall or you can put it on a special cabinet. You can also think of something more [creative](http://www.funkyjunkinteriors.net/2013/08/cool-diy-tv-stands.html). A coffee table and/or side table is a must-have as well, this is also an item you can get [quite creative with](http://www.topdreamer.com/20-creative-diy-coffee-and-side-tables/). Depending on the room you have, you might want to have some storage space in there as well. A room saving solution might be to make some shelves on the wall next to / above you’re TV.

**Dining Area**

* *Dining table*
* *Chairs*
* *Placemats*
* *Tablecloth*
* *Pot holders*

Your dining area might be situated in the kitchen or may be part of the living room. A room saving tip on dining tables: get an extendable table like [thisone](http://www.ikea.com/us/en/catalog/products/50116809/). Most of the time you won’t need a large table, but if you’re having guests over you can quickly extend your table space.

**Office / Study area**

* *Desk (with drawers)*
* *Desk light*
* *Book shelf*
* *Desk chair*
* *Keyboard/ mouse*
* *Mouse mat*
* *Speakers*
* *Printer*
* *Computer / laptop*
* *Laptop stand*
* *Pen*
* *Pencil*
* *Markers*
* *Paper*
* *Post-it notes*
* *Envelopes*
* *Stamps*
* *Paperclips*
* *Tape*
* *Organizers*

Not everyone is going to need a special office or study area, but if you’re a student, you can’t go without one. A desk, some shelving space for your books and a good office chair is basically what you’ll need. If you’re going to spend a lot of time sitting here, do yourself a favor and get a chair with lumbar support, your back will be grateful!

Have a laptop? Consider a laptop stand and an extra mouse and keyboard. It’s better for your neck and overall posture, plus it saves room on your desk. Tight budget? [Make your own laptop stand](http://mashable.com/2013/09/03/diy-laptop-stand/).

**Kitchen**

***Appliances***

* *Fridge / freezer*
* *Microwave*
* *Oven*
* *Cooktop*
* *Water cooker / kettle*
* *Toaster*
* *Coffee machine*

***Dinnerware***

* *Plates*
* *Side Plates*
* *Bowls*
* *Deep plates*
* *Serving Bowl*
* *Oven / Serving Dish*
* *Coffee Mugs*
* *Tea Cups*

***Flatware set:***

* *Knives*
* *Fork*
* *Spoons*
* *Teaspoons*

***Knives***

* *Cook’s knife*
* *Paring knife*
* *Slicing knife*
* *Bread knife*
* *Utility knife*
* *Cutting board*

***Glassware***

* *Wine glasses*
* *Water glasses*
* *Pitcher / carafe*
* *Cookware*
* *Frying pan*
* *Wok*
* *Pot with lid*
* *Saucepan*

***Kitchen utensils***

* *Serving spoon*
* *Ladle*
* *Spatula*
* *Whisk*
* *Tongs*
* *Pizza cutter*
* *Peeler*
* *Scissors*
* [*Bottle opener*](http://www.firstapartmentchecklist.com/best-bartender-bottle-opener/)
* *Cork screw*
* *Colander*
* *Measuring cup*

***Cleaning / dishes***

* *Dishwashing brush*
* *Dishwashing tub*
* *Dish rags*
* *Towels*
* *Dish drainer*
* *Papertowel holder*
* *Viscose cloths*
* *Dish soap*
* *Garbage can*
* *Garbage bags*

***Other***

* *Food containers*
* *Jars*
* *Spice Rack*
* *Bin*
* *Oven Mitts*
* *Cutlery Tray*
* *Lighter*

The kitchen is a difficult category. Depending on your level of cooking expertise, you may find that this part of the checklist is missing some items. However, do keep in mind that this is a checklist for essential items, which we think are all present.

Tiny kitchen? Don’t have enough kitchen cabinets to put all your stuff in? Consider hanging stuff on the walls with racks and hooks, or use any of these [kitchen room saving tips](http://www.bhg.com/kitchen/storage/organization/affordable-kitchen-storage-ideas/)

**Bedroom**

* *Matrass*
* *Duvet*
* *Duvet covers*
* *Bed sheets*
* [*Pillows*](http://www.firstapartmentchecklist.com/best-cervical-pillow-for-side-sleepers/)
* *Pillow cases*
* *Wardrobe / closet*
* *Chest of drawers*
* *Night table / shelf*
* *Night light*
* *Chair*
* *Under-bed storageboxes*
* *Curtains*
* *Curtain rails*
* *Alarm clock*
* *Clothing hangers*
* *Ceiling light*

Ideally the sleeping area is in a separate room, the bedroom. However, in a studio apartment this is not the case. To still separate the sleeping area from the rest of your room, you can use a room divider. Check out some of our creative ideas for room dividers.

Another tip to make maximum use of your bedroom space is to use the space under your bed. Get some [under-bed storage boxes](http://www.amazon.com/Underbed-Storage-Container-Single-cb110/dp/B000M39HQI/ref=pd_sim_hg_9) to store your duvets, duvet covers, pillow covers, etc.

**Bathroom**

* *Bath mat*
* *Shower curtain*
* *Mirror*
* *Medicine cabinet*
* *Towel holder*
* *Towel rail*
* *Bath towels*
* *Hand towels*
* *Shower shelf / caddy*
* *Scale*
* *Hair dryer*
* *Waste bin*
* *Shelfes*
* *Soap holder / dispenser*
* *Soap*
* *Shampoo*
* *Shower Gel*
* *Tooth paste*
* *Tooth brush*

The bathroom is a place that can quickly get cluttered up, so thinking of a good system to organize all your hair gels, beauty products, lotions, etc. is important. Tip: get a set of baskets or small containers and divide your products into categories.

If you don’t have a lot of space in your bathroom to put cabinets, consider the same tip as the kitchen: put stuff on the wall. Towel racks, shelves, hooks, they’re all inexpensive ways to store your bathroom supplies.

**Toilet**

* *Toilet brush*
* *Toilet paper*
* *Toilet paper holder*
* *Toilet plunger*
* *waste bin*
* *air refreshner*
* *soap*
* *towel*

**Cleaning and Laundry**

* [*Vacuum cleaner*](http://www.firstapartmentchecklist.com/best-vacuum-under-200-dollars-an-overview/)
* *Broom*
* *Dust Pan*
* *Bucket*
* *Mop*
* *Cleaning Cloths*
* *Sponges*
* *Cleaning gloves*
* *All-purpose cleaner*
* *Bleach*
* *Toilet Cleaner*
* *Window Cleaner*
* *Glass Wipes*
* *Stepping Stool*
* *Washing machine*
* *Laundry basket*
* *Drying rack*
* *Detergent*
* *Iron*
* *Ironing Board*

Keep a designated spot for your cleaning and laundry materials. First time renters often don’t do their laundry at home, because they don’t have the space or the budget for a washing machine. However, on the long term, you can save a lot of money (and a lot of time) if you’re able to get your own washing machine. Check out this cost comparison run by [the simple dollar](http://www.thesimpledollar.com/a-cost-comparison-of-home-laundry-and-laundromats/).

**Tools and other stuff**

* *Hammer*
* *Nails*
* *Screwdriver set*
* *Screws*
* *Saw*
* *Wrench*
* *Pliers*
* *Scissors*
* *Tape-measure*
* *Multi-tool*
* *Smoke detector*
* *Batteries*
* *Power outlet*
* *Power extension cords*
* *Storage boxes*
* *Candles*
* *Light bulbs*
* *Flash light*
* *Memo-bord*
* *Magnets*
* *Vase*