Things You Need For Your First Apartment: The Ultimate Checklist

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Entrance area

- Welcome mat (for outside the door)
- Small area rug (for just inside the door)
- Wall hooks for jackets, keys, etc.
- Small table or bench for shoe storage
- Lamp, if there's no other light source by the door
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- _____

Living room

- Couch, chairs, or other things to sit on
- Coffee table
- Bookshelves
- Television
- Stand for TV
- Throw pillows for couch/chairs
- Artwork
- Lamp(s)
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Kitchen

- Food!
- Silverware
- Silverware organizer (drawer insert)
- **Dishes** (e.g. plates, glasses, mugs, bowls, serving platters, etc.)
- Trash and recycling cans
- Pots and pans
- Oven mitts
- Spatulas, ladles, whisks, etc.
- Container for countertop storage of spatulas, ladles, whisks, etc.
- Dish towels
- Dish drying rack
- Measuring cups and spoons

- Mixing bowls
- Bottle opener and corkscrew
- Plastic containers for food storage (e.g. Tupperware or Gladware)
- Rolls of aluminum foil, wax paper, plastic wrap, and parchment paper
- Paper (or newspaper) to line cupboards and shelves
- Zip-top plastic bags of various sizes
- Cutting boards
- Toaster or toaster oven
- Microwave
- Coffee maker
- Kettle or hotpot
- Ice cube trays
- Blender
- Hand mixer
- Can opener
- Good, sharp knives (at least one large chef's knife and a small paring knife)
- Serving spoon
- Colander
- Additional free-standing shelves or storage, as needed (e.g. metal shelf units from Target or IKEA)
- Dish soap and sponges/scrubbers
- Trash can
- Small area rug
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- _____
- _____

Dining area

- Table and chairs
- Tablecloth or placemats
- Napkins
- Candles/tealights and candle holders
- Trivets
- _____
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Bathroom

- Shower curtain (and rings to hold it up)
- Shower caddy
- Toothbrush
- Toiletries (e.g. bath soap, hand soap, shampoo, lotion, etc.)
- Toilet paper
- Toilet brush

- Toilet plunger
- Bath mat(s)
- Air freshener
- Tissues
- Trash can
- Over-the-door towel hook
- Towels (bath and hand) and washcloths (be sure to have extras for any guests who spend the night)
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Bedroom

- Bed!
- Pillows
- Mattress and box spring
- Mattress pad
- Sheets and comforter
- Night stand
- Lamp
- Dresser
- Hangers (more than you think you need)
- Hamper
- Trash can
- Curtains
- Alarm clock
- Desk
- Chair for desk
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- Miscellaneous
 - **Cleaning supplies** (e.g. rags, paper towels, sprays)
 - Laundry soap, fabric softener, stain remover (e.g. Shout) and a jar of quarters for laundry
 - Trash bags
 - Vacuum cleaner
 - Small broom and dustpan
 - Extension cords
 - Surge strips
 - Basic tools, including screwdrivers (flat and Phillips-heads), hammer (and some small nails), duct tape, box-cutter or X-acto knife, duct tape, pliers, wrench, and masking tape

(at the very least, get a Leatherman, which includes basic versions of most of the abovementioned tools)

- Large plastic bins or other storage
- Pens
- Paper (for grocery lists, doodles, etc.)
- Flashlight(s)
- Batteries of various types, including backups for your flashlight
- Candle
- Matches
- Tweezers
- Fans
- Emergency Kit
- Window air conditioner
- Internet router and associated cords
- Light bulbs
- First aid kit
- Carbon monoxide alarm
- **Fire alarm** (your landlord is responsible for providing a smoke detector, but you should check to make sure it works)
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