

# What to Pack and Consider For Your Residence Hall Room

Your residence hall room comes with an extra long twin bed and mattress, desk and chair, dresser, closet or wardrobe, small shelf or bookshelf, and overhead lighting. Rooms have tile floors and window blinds. In each hall, there is a laundry room(s) with washers and dryers. If possible, talk to your roommate when you are planning what to bring. However, if you are unable to do so, pack possible double items in a way to make it easier to leave in the vehicle to go back home. Keep in mind that college-owned furniture may not be removed from your room.

Many students simply bring too much stuff! Less is better and if you really want to bring something from home, bring it back when you return from fall break. Plan to switch out seasonal things during the breaks. Winter stuff can come back with you fall break while most of your summer stuff can go back home. Same thing with spring break- switch out things and plan ahead for May. The more you bring home spring break, the less you are scrambling to pack in May!

The following list is neither a must have nor necessarily complete depending upon the individual and is available on the Residential Life website. You will see “Green Tips” next to a leaf to help you be mindful of your impact on the Eastern Shore. Washington College is committed to sustainability and encourages students and families to help. Even if it’s a small change, it makes a difference. Keeping plastic wrapping to a minimum, avoiding excessive cardboard, using re-usable water bottles, and being mindful of what chemicals we use that ultimately end up in the Chesapeake watershed. Little things add up to make a difference in an area known to be an ecological wonder. All the bay critters thank you!



## IDENTIFICATION

- Identification needed for employment such as driver's license, passport, social security card
- Health insurance card/info, medical care providers contact information

## MEDICATIONS


- Current written prescriptions, anything you take regularly and special instructions for things like allergy shots
- Spare eyeglasses, contact lenses, supplies
- First aid supplies, headache / cold medicine, tissues, band aids, cough drops.

## LINENS/RUGS

- Pillow (1-2)
- Light blanket and a heavy comforter for Twin or XL Twin
- Sheets for XL Twin Bed (36" x 80"), 2 sets recommended
- Mattress Topper and/or Pad for XL Twin


 *Green Tip: Avoid foam and buy instead a washable mattress pad that can be re-used.*

- Towels—probably at least 2 bath, 2 hand, 2 face
- Small area rug(s) (washable throw rugs are best)

 *Green Tip: Avoid the 8x10 traditional stiff backed carpets. They are typically unusably filthy after one year and just get thrown away. Natural fiber, washable small area rugs last longer, are easier to keep clean and pack up.*

## PERSONAL ITEMS

- Rain gear (raincoat, rain boots, and umbrella)
- Workout clothes, bathing suit and pool towel
- Toiletries (toothpaste, hair care, soap, lotion, etc.)

 *Green Tip: Look for all natural, biodegradable shampoo, conditioner, soaps, natural loofah. Natural ingredient bar soap has less harmful chemicals and packaging and is more cost effective than shower gel/body wash*

- Brush and comb
- Shaving items, tweezers
- Hair dryer, curling / straightening iron
- Shower shoes (recommended), bathrobe, and tote/bucket for items
- Sunscreen, bug spray

## LAUNDRY / CLOTHING CARE


- Detergent, fabric softener, stain remover

 *Green Tip: Look for all natural, biodegradable detergents, dryer balls or non-toxic, biodegradable softener.*

- Laundry basket, hamper or bag
- Hangers
- Iron/ironing board (only if you absolutely need it)

## SCHOOL STUFF


- Book bag/messenger bag
- Jump/thumb drive, notebooks, pens, pencils, loose-leaf paper

 *Green Tip: Look for items made from recycled materials.*

- Laptop (Visit OIT's webpage for details and requirements), printer that can be used non-wirelessly

## HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

- Surge protector / power strip with cords 4ft or longer (ONLY surge protected strips are allowed)

 *Green Tip: A smart strip that will let you leave some items powered on (fridge) while allowing you to easily turn off non-essential items.*

- Plastic stacking cubes, totes or containers to stash stuff under the bed
- Cleaning supplies like cleaning wipes or all purpose spray cleaner and paper towels, Swiffer-type items for floor.

 *Green Tip: Look for all natural detergents, sponges, etc. when you can to reduce the use of harmful chemicals.*

- Small trash can
- Bed risers (no cinder blocks or bricks)

## SNACKING STUFF


- Microwavable mug, cup, plate, silverware (1-2 of each would suffice), manual can opener

 *Green Tip: Durable, reusable items will last. Avoid fragile or disposable items.*

- Non-perishable snack foods in sealable containers (*hint: don't bring enough for a whole year-plan to restock during vacations.*)
- Small bottle of dishwashing detergent, cleaning sponge or scrubbie, dishtowel

 *Green Tip: Look for natural biodegradable detergent and natural sponges, cotton dishtowels.*

- Drinks- *but NOT 3 months supply!* (soda, juice, water filters)

 *Green Tip: Cases of plastic water bottles take up too much room and need to be recycled. Use a water pitcher (which stores in your fridge) with a filter instead to save on space and avoid the dreaded plastic water bottle waste! 3 filters and a pitcher will take up far less space than a case of water.*

## OPTIONAL STUFF

- Flashlight and batteries for room. If bringing a vehicle, flashlight/batteries and emergency kit for vehicle
- Bike with strong U-lock, inline skates, skateboard or other items for outdoor recreation
- Board games/cards, Frisbee, basketball, etc.
- Mini refrigerator (**no larger than 5 cubic feet**), microwave, coffee maker with auto shutoff.
- Posters, photos, artwork, calendar, pictures of the family and friends
- 3M Command or like product for hanging items on walls without damaging paint.
- Plants ex. Spider plants flourish in any type of light or air plants that can be suctioned to the window
- Desk or floor lamp, decorative lights (fairy lights)

 *Green Tip: LED lamps and bulbs help save energy*

## Things To Leave At Home

- Halogen lamps and multi-arm lamps with plastic shades
  - Wireless only printer (see OIT's website)
- Toaster ovens, toasters, grills, sandwich makers, open coil appliances.
  - Air conditioners, portable heaters.
  - Electrical cords (only surge protectors please)
    - Furniture
- Pets (with the exception of fish in 10 gallon tank or less)
- Candles, incense, or potpourri/scent pots utilizing a candle or flame.
  - Permanent adhesives and nails
- All weapons including firearms, knives, bb guns, swords, fake guns, etc.
  - Fireworks, propane, or explosives
- Drugs (*except prescription for that specific resident*) and alcohol (*alcohol prohibited except when student is 21 or over and amount is solely for personal use by 1 student.*)



## Moving Day Hints:

- The entire process of getting ready to move in, moving in, and then letting go is very stressful on everyone. Everything doesn't need to be perfect, forgotten items can be ordered and mailed, and have faith in the student's ability to learn, adapt and succeed in their own way.
- Avoid bringing cardboard if you can. 300+ people all bringing cardboard quickly becomes a mountain! If you have to, there are recycling locations located in the halls for it. Use your towels, sheets, clothing to wrap items to reduce waste.
- Although it is best to avoid bringing dogs moving day, if you have to, please remember that there is a leash and pet waste code in Chestertown. All dogs must be leashed or fenced at all times and owners must bag and dispose of Fido's "business." Pets are also not allowed in residence halls nor any buildings on campus.
  - It will be hot and humid.
- Students assigned to Cullen and Kent in particular should consider bringing a hand truck or foldable cart to help transport things from vehicle in parking lot to hall.
- Students assigned to Minta, Queen Anne, Caroline, and Reid will find that carts have limited use due to the proximity of the parking lots and the configuration of the sidewalks and hall floors.
- Students in East or Middle will pull their vehicles onto the Cater Walk to unload and then remove the vehicle. Staircases in East and Middle are high and steeper than modern staircases. If you need help, let staff know.