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Top organizing tips for dorm rooms



Shutterstock image

By Jennifer Raftis, CPO®

Planning ahead will simplify the transition to college dorm life.

As summer comes to an end, many of my clients are getting ready to send their child off to college. I wanted to share some of my favorite dorm room tips – ones that you might not find in a book. These tips not only come from my years of experience as a professional organizer, but also from my personal experience as a mom of three – two college graduates (girls) and one currently attending college (boy).

If you are like me, as my college-bound child was heading off to school, I read through every list of "must haves" and "must knows" for a college dorm room. The list seemed overwhelming, endless, and costly! One list had over 50 "best ideas." Really?! I learned to stick to the basics – dorm rooms are small and you have to move everything again in the summer – and anything else they needed could be added later.

Here are the key items to know that I found were the most useful and efficient:

1) Pack less clothing than you think you will need. If your child has four huge suitcases of clothing and is still packing ... they have over-packed! They will be quickly acquiring college logo T-shirts, sweatshirts and swag (guess what your holiday gift will be this year?), so make sure you have planned space for the new items. Most likely, you will be visiting your child on "Parents Day" (usually October) and you can easily bring (or send) more items to them. By then, they have a better sense of what they will be needing.

Dorm rooms are small. Don't try to take all of your clothes.

2) Raise the bed to create more space. Depending on the bed design and dorm rules, you can raise the bed high enough to put a desk underneath, or to make room for a refrigerator or rolling storage bins. Find out what your options are before move-in day.

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