

The No-Drill First Apartment Plan

For a first place, a studio, or any lease that forbids holes in the walls.

SET THE BASELINE ONCE

A first apartment is the one moment you get to decide what your home contains before habit decides for you. Unpack by category rather than by box: every piece of clothing together, then every book, then papers. You will see duplicates you would never notice unpacking room by room.

Handle each thing once and ask whether you would choose it again today. What you keep sets the volume you need to store, which is exactly why measuring and buying storage comes after this step, never before it.



Easiest decisions first. Sentimental items last, never first.

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The checklist

MEASURE THESE FIVE THINGS FIRST

10 minutes, saves returns

- ☐ Closet rod height, and the gap underneath it
- ☐ Clearance under the bed, frame to floor
- ☐ Inside depth of the bathroom vanity
- ☐ Width of the gap beside the fridge
- ☐ Door width, so bought furniture actually fits in

WEEK ONE, ABOUT \$60

buy in this order, not all at once

- ☐ Under-bed bins on wheels, the biggest single win in a small place
- ☐ One over-the-door organizer, shoes or pantry goods
- ☐ Adhesive hooks, 10+ pack, rated 5lb and up
- ☐ Two stackable bins that fold flat when empty
- ☐ A shower caddy, so nothing sits on the tub edge

WHAT ACTUALLY HOLDS ON RENTAL WALLS

test on a hidden spot first

- ☐ Adhesive hooks: good on flat painted drywall, fail on textured walls
- ☐ Tension rods: under sinks and inside closets, no hardware at all
- ☐ Over-door hooks: check the door still clears its frame
- ☐ Magnetic strips: only on steel, test with a fridge magnet
- ☐ Never on wallpaper, or paint less than 30 days old

THE SIX THINGS PEOPLE OVERBUY

wait until you have lived there a month

- ☐ Decor, before you know how the light falls
- ☐ A drying rack, if there is a radiator or shower rail
- ☐ Matching containers, before you know what you store
- ☐ Furniture you have not measured against the door
- ☐ A vacuum, if the building lends one
- ☐ Anything you cannot carry up the stairs alone

BEFORE YOU HAND BACK THE KEYS

protects your deposit

- ☐ Peel adhesive strips slowly and downward, never yank
- ☐ Fill pin holes with toothpaste or spackle
- ☐ Keep the bins that fold flat, they move with you
- ☐ Photograph every room empty on the last day