



Ready Your College-Bound Teen to Leave the Nest

You may want your student to KIT (keep in touch), but they'll need some other kits, too. Here are a few dorm room essentials that are often overlooked:

- **First aid kit.** You can't be there watching over him or her, so make sure your student is prepared with the basics like bandages, pain relievers, anti-itch cream and cough drops.
- **Sewing kit.** This can be useful not only to repair clothing, but also to mend a torn backpack or make a do-it-yourself Halloween costume.
- **Small tool kit.** It's move-in day and you want to set up that amazing shelving unit you found for your student's room, but when you reach for the screwdriver...you find out they don't own one. It's always handy to have scissors, pliers, a tape measure and of course, a screwdriver.
- **Laundry kit.** It's more than just detergent. Don't forget to include dryer sheets, stain remover, a drying rack and maybe some fabric freshening spray for the days they don't want to do laundry.

There are also some ways you can help them stay safe and protect their belongings by making their dorm or apartment more secure, such as:

- **Change the locks.** Check with the landlord to make sure locks on exterior doors were replaced after the last resident moved out so no one can gain access with an old key.
- **Put those locks to good use.** Doors should always be secured, even when your student is inside or just stepping out for a few minutes.
- **Make a list and check it twice.** Keep an inventory of your student's valuable items and their serial numbers so if they're stolen, they can be easily identified or submitted with an insurance claim.
- **Stash it in a safe.** Small safes are a great way to securely store passports, cash and expensive jewelry.
- **Follow along.** Campus security is an excellent resource, so make sure both you and your student follow them on social media or are signed up to receive alerts about incidents on campus.

Are your student's valuables covered? You can further protect your student by insuring his or her belongings. Kemper Personal Insurance's renters product provides coverage for theft. Ask your independent agent for details.

Sources: Boston University; City of Richfield, Minnesota; Fairfax County, Virginia; Hiram College; Johns Hopkins University; Loyola University Chicago; University of Connecticut; The Woodlands Township, Texas

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