

SUSTAINABLE UF

GREEN

YOUR MOVE-IN!

INTRODUCTION:

Whether you are returning from break or moving into a new residence hall, apartment, or house, you might be thinking about what you need to buy and the best way to get there. If you take some time to plan ahead, you can make choices that not only save money but can also significantly reduce environmental impact. This guide outlines useful tips and tricks to help you green your move.

STEP 1:

Start by making a list of the things you (and your roommates) think you might need in your new apartment, house or dorm.

- Contact your roommates to find out what type of furnishings or appliances (such as TVs or toasters) they will be bringing to avoid any duplicates!

STEP 2:

After you have established who is bringing what, take some time to consider what you might be able to buy second-hand instead of brand new. In a college town like Gainesville, you can often find gently-used or like-new items at way lower prices. By buying secondhand you'll reduce waste while saving money!





TIPS FOR:

APPLIANCES & FURNITURE:

All UF residence halls provide major appliances & furniture for you! Apartments and houses may provide these, but it depends on the complex (call your complex to learn more).


- In-person stores like Goodwill and The Repurpose Project carry secondhand furniture and appliances at affordable prices.
- Online sites like Facebook Marketplace are your best friend -- you'll be able to find items for a fraction of the original price!
- Look for the Energy Star® label if buying new appliances.
- Make sure to get a power strip! They make it easy to turn off multiple appliances at once and will help save energy.
- If you can, exchange all incandescent light bulbs in your room for compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLS) or LED bulbs. These bulbs save energy, last longer, and don't emit heat.

ORGANIZING & DECORATION:

Always think about reuse and repurpose! Thrift stores also carry interesting closet organizers, decorations, artwork and knick-knacks that will make your place feel like home in no time!

CLEANING SUPPLIES:

When purchasing things like soap, cleaners, and detergents, make sure to choose eco-friendly or biodegradable options.

- You can also consider buying a drying rack for your clothes to help you to save money AND energy.
 - To replace dryer sheets which often contain plastic, consider wool dryer balls (bonus: you can add your favorite essential oils for fresh laundry).
 - As far as toiletries, look for plastic-free options like bar shampoo/conditioner, natural loofahs, toothpaste tablets and more!
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KITCHEN SUPPLIES:

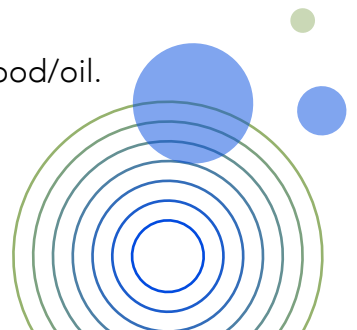
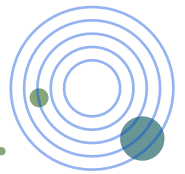
When looking for cooking pots, plates and silverware, we recommend checking your home cabinets for extra items you can take. If you need to buy your own, thrift stores and garage sales have lots of kitchen supplies available at a quarter of the price!

- Choose reusable tableware over plastic/disposable items for everyday home use to avoid contributing to a lot of the waste that ends up in landfills.
- Another must-have on your list is a reusable water bottle for walking around UF's expansive campus where there are plenty of water refilling stations!
- Other helpful items include a reusable straw and reusable shopping bags.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES:

When buying school materials, there is a lot of opportunity to choose items that are more environmentally friendly and contribute less to waste & pollution!

- If possible, wait until classes start to see how many notebooks you need or consider taking digital notes to reduce paper use. If you have some half-full notebooks from previous years, reuse them!
- Purchase notebooks that have recycled content paper; you'll be saving trees and reducing pollution. The higher the percentage, the better!
- If your backpack is still in good condition, reuse it! If it's time for a new bag, check local second hand stores for gently used options.
- Always recycle used scrap paper, notebooks and cardboard that is clean of any food/oil.
- If you need to purchase hard-copy textbooks, consider renting or buying used.



PACKING:

Instead of bubble wrap or packing peanuts, use clothes or old newspapers to wrap small items, and blankets for larger ones.

- Durable storage crates are handy for everything from clothes and shoes to decorations, food, small appliances and more. Consider borrowing containers from friends or family, or look for used crates at local thrift stores. (Consider what items you're already bringing that could be repurposed - like a laundry basket!)
- If you need cardboard boxes, ask a local grocery or liquor store if they have extras. Recycle any boxes you bring to move-in days or flatten them and keep them underneath your bed for the next time you'll need to move.

TRANSPORTATION:

There are lots of cheap and convenient ways to get around campus without needing to bring a car and worry about parking availability and decal expenses. Check out some options below:

- Consider bringing a bicycle to campus or renting one through the Gator Gears Student Bike Rental Program (bikes.ufl.edu). With bike racks at every building and free repairs through Student Government Bike Repair, you'll be able to keep rolling all year long.
- The RTS bus system is also free to all UF students with a Gator 1 card, and there are routes that take you throughout campus and the Gainesville area. Learn more at go-rts.com.
- UF also offers several other alternative transportation options, such as ZipCar, Zimride, SNAP and E-Scooters. Check out information about those options by visiting taps.ufl.edu/alternative-transportation/.



RESOURCES

HOUSING MOVE-IN GUIDE

Whether you're living on or off campus, use this resource from UF Housing to get started on your packing list. Don't forget to add swaps/items mentioned in this guide!

<https://www.housing.ufl.edu/residence-halls/packing-list/>

OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY WEBSITE

<https://sustainable.ufl.edu/>

OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY SOCIALS

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