

Prepare your home for travelers:

Essential items checklist

When guests decide to say in a vacation home, they have different expectations from a hotel stay.



Kitchen

Guests rent your vacation home to live like a local and feel as if they're in their own home. So try to provide everything they might need for a home-cooked meal, perhaps a microwave for popcorn, and, of course, the all-important dishwasher.

Appliances

- Coffee pot/coffee maker
- Refrigerator and freezer
- Dishwasher
- Oven with stovetop burners
- Microwave
- Blender

Dinnerware

Make sure you have enough for the number of people your property sleeps!

- Plates (small and large)
- Bowls
- Flatware (forks, spoons, and knives)
- Steak knives
- Water glasses
- Coffee cups
- Wine glasses
- Large serving platter
- Serving spoons

Cooking accessories

- Skillets
- A few saucepans with lids
- Roaster with a lid
- Dutch oven with a lid
- Baking dish
- 2-quart Pyrex dish
- Cookie sheet
- Large casserole dish
- Measuring spoons
- Colander
- Spatula
- Tongs
- Soup ladle
- Mixing bowls
- Rolling pin
- Beverage pitcher
- Cake pan

Miscellaneous

- Cutting board
- Wine/bottle opener
- Can opener
- Ice cream scoop
- Fire extinguisher
- Pizza cutter
- Pot holders/oven mitts
- Kitchen towels/washcloths (at least 2 of each)
- Pot scrubber
- Kitchen scissors
- Dishwasher soap
- Paper towels
- Bonus items: Recipe books, spice rack, crock pot or slow cooker

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Pantry

For the pantry, the rule of thumb is: even if the renters will only use a small portion during their stay, then you should probably provide it. If you're not able to provide some of the suggested items, be sure to let your guests know ahead of time.

- Salt and pepper
- Basic spices such as chili powder and various seasonings
- Coffee and coffee filters
- Non-dairy creamer
- Sugar
- Toothpicks
- Cooking oil
- Cooking spray
- Vinegar
- Ketchup
- Mustard
- Flour



Bathroom

When stocking the bathroom, try to think of the things you use and make sure there's enough of each item for each guest that will be staying in your property.

- 2 rolls of toilet paper in each bathroom
- Liquid hand soap
- Box of tissues in each bathroom
- Plastic or washable shower curtain liners
- Hair dryer in each bathroom
- Plunger and toilet brush
- Towel hooks
- 2 bath towels per guest
- 2 hand towels per guest
- 4 washcloths per guest
- Array of mini travel toiletries

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Living room

Your living room, like your kitchen, is something most hotels don't offer. For guests to enjoy this unique amenity, make sure there's enough space for everyone staying, ensure a functioning entertainment center, and stock your living room with a few rainy-day activities.

- Comfortable seating for the number of people your rental sleeps
- TV large enough to watch across the room (at least 27 inches)
- Basic cable
- DVD player
- Deck of cards and/or board games



Miscellaneous items/amenities

There are plenty of "nice-to-have" items that can elevate your guests' experience, but try to provide the basic items below at all times.

- High-speed internet
- Vacuum
- Washer, dryer, and laundry detergent
- Outdoor safety lighting
- Air conditioning
- Liners for trash cans
- Full length mirror
- Carbon monoxide and natural gas detectors
- Guestbook
- Flashlight
- First aid kit
- Extra phone chargers and headphones