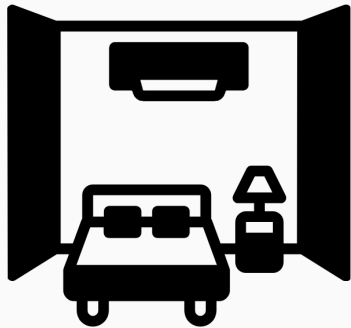


NEW STUDENT'S GUIDE TO A GREEN MOVE-IN



Moving in for your first year at Carleton can be an exciting and stressful time. You've probably spent the last few months wondering what your dorm is going to look like, what clothes you're going to wear, what school supplies you need to buy. Sometimes, the thrill and anxiety over starting the next stage of your life can lead to over-purchasing, resulting in the wasting of otherwise suitable clothing, appliances, and supplies at the end of the school year. Here are 12 tips from current Carls on how to reduce waste (and wasteful spending) as you prepare to move into your freshman dorm.

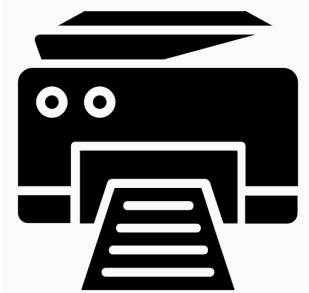
1 CONSIDER ROOM SIZE



Freshman dorms at Carleton are not cramped, but they won't have space for every single one of your belongings. On average, a double in Musser or Goodhue is about 210 square feet. You can find floor plans for each dorm on [the Residential Life website](#) to find out the size of your room. Each room is furnished with a twin XL bed, desk and chair, closet, dresser, and trash cans for each resident. Many are also carpeted and have small mirrors.

2 USE CARLETON'S RESOURCES

As a residential college, Carleton provides students with many of the resources they need to thrive outside of the classroom as well as inside. Every dorm floor has a kitchen with a microwave, refrigerator, and oven, as well as basic cleaning supplies like a broom, mop, and vacuum cleaner. There are also printers and staplers available for student use in nearly every academic building on campus.



3 SHARING IS CARING

Communicate with your roommate(s) before you start packing for Carleton to decide what items you are comfortable sharing and coordinate if you want to make larger purchases. Electric kettles, fans, and mirrors are all non-essential items that are easy to share. And you wouldn't want to shell out for a mini fridge just to arrive on campus and find out your roommate has done so as well.



4 USE WHAT YOU HAVE

While you will most likely need to purchase some new things for your dorm (who has twin XL sheets just lying around?), you probably already have most of what you need to bring to college. Bringing pillows, towels, school supplies, and toiletries you already own will cut down on what goes to waste once you move out.



5 DITCH THE “DORM ESSENTIALS” SHOPPING LIST

A lot of businesses that sell appliances and furnishings specifically for dorms publish exhaustive shopping lists including everything you might ever need for life on campus. These companies want you to buy from them, and will put more items on their lists than are reasonable to bring to college. Take what they write with a grain of salt: you don't need a lap desk and an espresso machine to survive dorm life.

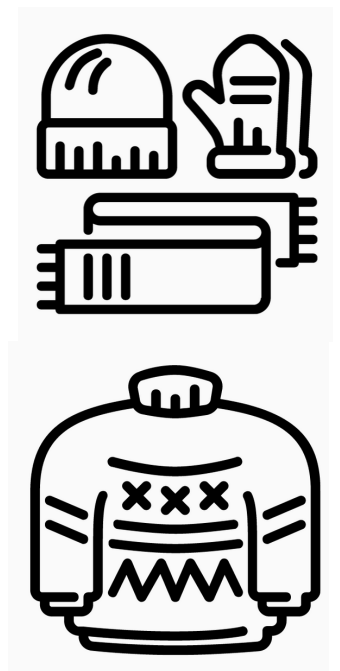
6 YOU DON'T NEED TO STOCKPILE

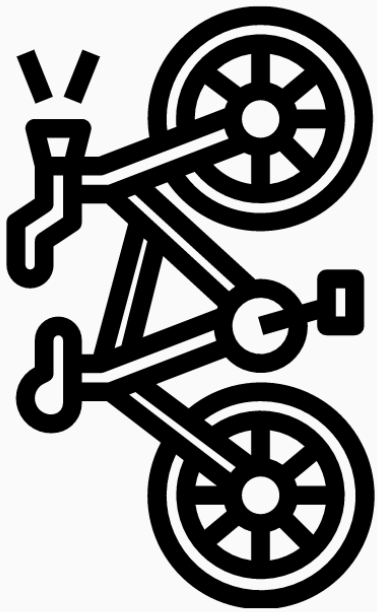


For those of us from major cities, it may feel like a move to small town Minnesota is a giant leap into the unknown, but you don't need to pack as if you're preparing for a desert island. Northfield has a Target, Walgreens, many thrift shops, and multiple large grocery stores that are easy to get to by walking or taking the free Northfield Express bus. If you don't have everything you need in your first week of college, you will be able to pick more things up in Northfield or, if necessary, have them shipped to you.

7 WAIT FOR WINTER

If you're not from a particularly cold place, you may be struggling with how to prepare for your first Minnesota winter. The good news is that it won't get really cold until after winter break. We recommend bringing a warm jacket, a scarf, a warm hat, and a good pair of gloves for fall term, and adding extra layers once winter comes and you have a better sense of what you will need. Unless you plan to go Arctic-explorer-style and spend hours outside each day of winter term, you probably won't need too much more than that. All buildings are well heated, so most students only come into contact with the cold for a few minutes while moving from place to place.



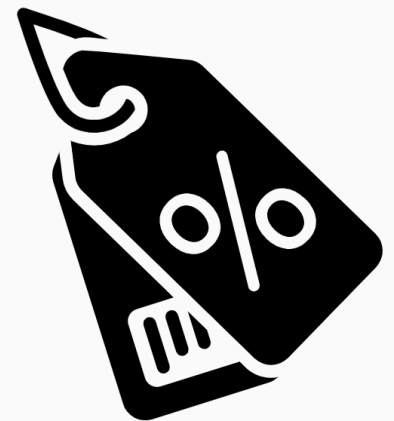


8 TO BIKE OR NOT TO BIKE?

Some students find it helpful to have a bike on campus to get around Northfield more quickly or explore some of the scenery just outside of town. Biking is an awesome, environmentally friendly alternative to driving in a car, but many students will find that having a bike on campus is more of a hassle than it's worth. At the end of every year, there are always a number of working bikes abandoned on campus by students who lost interest in them. Before purchasing a bike or bringing your own to campus, consider if you really need it and are willing to take care of it through the winter (which lasts a long time). If later on in the term you decide you really want one, you will likely be able to buy an affordable used bike from a student who decided they didn't.

9 CHECK OUT FREE & FOR SALE

Carleton has an active Facebook group within the Carleton community called "Free & For Sale" where students can buy and sell affordable used clothing, textbooks, and dorm supplies. Once a term, the Sustainability Office also throws a pop-up clothing thrift shop event for students called the Free & For Sale Frenzy. These are both great, environmentally conscious resources to use if you are ready to get rid of an item you don't need anymore or are looking for an affordable way to purchase something new. [You can find the Facebook page here](#) and join using your Carleton email address.



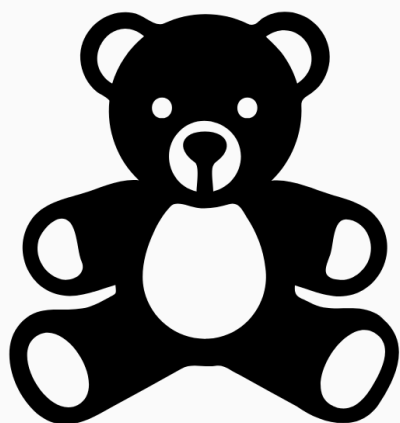
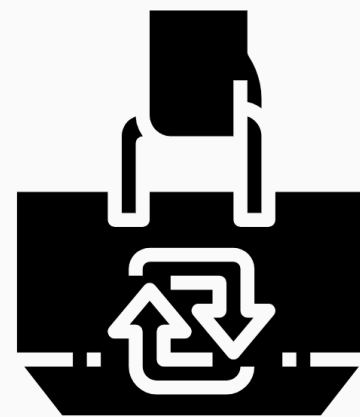
10 PLAN AHEAD TO MOVE-OUT

If you don't drive to and from campus, you will most likely end up storing your belongings in Carleton storage when you move out at the end of the year. While this is an amazing resource to students, there are also restrictions on what can be stored. [This website](#) provides information on requirements and size limits for storage. Before bringing large items such as furniture or floor lamps to campus, consider whether you have a plan to hold onto them year after year, even when you are not on campus.



11 PACK RE-USABLES

Many students find it convenient to pack items that will help them cut down on waste once they arrive on campus. If you have access to them, we recommend bringing a reusable water bottle to fill up around campus, a mug or reusable cup for flavored beverages, a tote bag if you plan to shop for groceries, and a rag or two to clean surfaces or dry dishes.



12 DON'T BE TOO SPARING

While it is encouraged to keep sustainability in mind as you prepare for this big life shift, it is also important to bring to college what feels right to you. Packing a few extra creature comforts like a cozy blanket or a gaming device can go a long way toward making your new dorm room feel like home. What do you already own that might ease your transition to college? It may not be something already on your packing list.

SOME FINAL WORDS OF ADVICE:

Living sustainably is about taking the environmental toll of your actions into account when making decisions about where to travel, what to buy, and how to live. We at the Sustainability Office are here to help ease your transition to campus as much as possible, and help you learn to live on your own for the first time in a way that feels meaningful to you. We will provide more information as you arrive to campus, but feel free to reach out to us with questions at any step of the way. Our email is sustainability@carleton.edu and we would love to hear from you.