



THE COMPLETE VACATION RENTAL CHECKLIST



FROM ZERO TO LISTING

As hosts ourselves, we know that setting up a vacation rental property can be a daunting task. But it doesn't have to be...

We've created the following checklists to help you get everything you need to purchase for your property with minimal effort. This step-by-step guide will help you save both time and money—all you have to do is check off the boxes.

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TIMING IS EVERYTHING

Before we get to the checklists, we want to mention a quick note about something that often gets overlooked: timing.

If you don't plan properly, you can end up with furniture that doesn't fit in your space, linens that don't match, and/or rushing around last minute to get cheap items that end up breaking right away.

By planning ahead and taking into account the time it takes to shop and set up your property, you can ensure that your guests have a great experience in a comfortable and inviting environment.

Here are our recommended time frames for when to purchase items prior to your listing going live:

8+ weeks out Furniture

6 weeks out Linens

4 weeks out Mattresses, Kitchen, Rugs, Decor, Amenities, Supplies

Please take any potential supply chain issues into account and give yourself extra time as needed.

Don't have 8+ weeks? HostGPO members can always reach out to our team to get help finding quality furniture and items that are all in stock and ready to ship.

NOT JUST ANOTHER CHECKLIST

We've compiled data from hosts with just a few units to those with thousands, so you can trust that our checklist is comprehensive.

Whether you're just starting out or an experienced host looking to maximize your profits, our checklist can provide you with the necessary guidance to ensure your success.

BONUS FEATURE!

Check out the Airbnb  and VRBO  icons next to each item. These indicate filters within each platform. Having more of these amenities increases your ranking.

LIVING ROOM

Furniture

Dependent on the size/layout of your room

- Sofa
- Coffee Table
- Accent Chair(s)
- Media Console
- Side Table(s)

Furniture - Nice to have

- Ottoman
- Shelving Unit

This can be a great way to take up wall space as well as store other amenities such as books and games.

Decor

- Lamps
- We recommend one standing floor lamp and one to two lamps on tables. This helps to set the mood and provides focused light for reading and games, etc.
- Throw Pillows
- Throw Blanket
- Rug

Depending on the size of your room, we recommend a 5 x 7' rug or larger.

- Rug Pad
- You don't want your guests slipping in this high traffic area.
- Artwork / Wall Decor
- We recommend one, large focal piece to go above a sofa or console table, and then two or more smaller pieces for other smaller wall spaces. Wall mirrors can also function as wall art and will help reflect light. This is especially great for small or dark spaces.

Decor - Nice to have

- Coffee Table Book(s)
- Decorative Accessories
- Choosing some local or regionally styled accessories can help give your property a sense of place.
- Faux Plants

Electronics/Accessories

- TV
- Remote Control
- Bluetooth Speaker/Stereo/ Sound System  

Airbnb specifies "Sound System" and VRBO specifies "Stereo" but we recommend getting a Bluetooth speakers so guests can play their own music from their phones.

Electronics/Accessories - Nice to have

- TV Wall Mount
- Smart TV Plugin
- Ex: Apple TV, Roku, Firestick, Chrome TV. Although make sure to also have a regular TV/cable option if your target audience is an older demographic.
- Record Player and Records
- Does your target audience include hipsters or audiophiles? A record player is a great way to appeal to their interests. If you're not sure what albums to provide, we recommend a mix of classic rock, classic jazz, and indie rock.

Entertainment - Nice to have

- Board Games 
- We like to include these:
- Scrabble
- Clue
- Chess
- Deck of Cards 
- Dice 
- Poker Chips 
- Video Library 
- Books & Reading Material 

DINING ROOM

Furniture

Dependent on the size/layout of your room

- Dining Table
- Dining Chairs
- Credenza/Buffet

If your dining room size allows, this is nice piece to include that adds sophistication and extra storage.

Decor

- Rug

Having a rug underneath your dining table and chairs protects your floors from getting beat up. We always recommend something that cleans well, hides stains, and/or is washable.

- Rug Pad
- Curtains/Blinds

ENTRYWAY/FOYER

Furniture/Decor Combos

We like using one of these options, dependent on the style of your home and the size/layout of your space.

- Bench and Wall Hooks
A bench and hooks are a great place for guests to sit and remove their shoes as well as hang jackets.
- Console Table and Wall Mirror
A console table with a mirror on the wall is a great place for guests to leave a bag or keys and check how they look on the way out. It's also nice to make a small or dark space seem larger and brighter.

Decor

- Doormat
This is technically an outdoor item, but we include it here because we think of it as part of the entry. It's a great first step (pun intended) to prevent dirt from entering your home.
- Durable Indoor Rug
- Rug Pad

Decor - Nice to have

- Rug
If you have a blank wall, fill it with some art!
- Decorative Accessories
A large bowl for fruit in the middle of the table or on a credenza adds a nice touch and looks great in listing photos.

Basics

- Welcome Book

This should contain house rules, contact info, a property map (if needed), any house tips, nearest emergency locations, local food/drink/recreation/shopping recommendations, as well as things like start park parking passes or local events calendars.

Basics - Nice to have

- Weather Mats
These are great to have near any entryway to protect your home if your guests will be doing lots of outdoor activities.
- No Smoking Signs

KITCHEN

Furniture

Dependent on the size/layout of your room

- Kitchen Table
- Kitchen Chairs
- Counter or Bar Stools

Appliances

- Refrigerator or Mini Fridge 
- Oven  
- Stove  
- Dishwasher 
- Microwave  
- Coffee Maker  
- Blender 
- Toaster  

Appliances - Nice to have

- Electric Tea Kettle  
If you are not going to include an electric tea kettle, make sure to have a stove top version.
- Bread Maker 
- Coffee Grinder 
- Hand Mixer
- Rice Maker 
- Trash Compactor 
- Crock Pot / Slow Cooker

Cookware/Bakeware

- Cookware Set  

We recommend providing at least these items:

- 10" Frying Pan
- 8" Nonstick Frying Pan
- 3 qt. Saucepan w/ Lid
- 8 qt. Stockpot w/ Lid

Cookware/Bakeware (cont'd)

- Colander
- Bakeware Set 

We recommend providing at least these items:

- Baking Sheet
- Cake Pan
- Glass Baking Dish

Cookware/Bakeware - Nice to have

- Steamer Pot Insert
- Cast Iron Skillet
- Dutch Oven
- Muffin Pan

Tabletop

We recommend 2 per guest, except for serving pieces. Increase quantities of serveware for more than 4 guests.

- Dinner Plates  
- Salad Plates  
- Cereal Bowls  
- Mugs
- Large Water Glasses 
- Short Water Glasses 
- Wine Glasses (Stemless)
- Flatware (Knives, Forks, Spoons)  
- Steak Knives
- Chopsticks 
- Serving Spoons (1-2 per home)
- Serving Bowl (1 per home)
- Serving Platter (1 per home)

KITCHEN

Utensils/Tools

- Cutting Board
- Knife Set

We recommend a knife block set to prevent knives from getting damaged/dull AND so you easily know if something has gone missing. If you're not using a knife block set, we recommend at least providing:

 - Chef's Knife
 - Pairing Knife
 - Serrated Knife
 - Kitchen Shears
- Can Opener
- Grater
- Mixing Spoon
- Metal Spatula
- Rubber Spatula
- Tongs
- Whisk
- Measuring Cups
- Measuring Spoons
- Lighter
- Mixing Bowls

Utensils/Tools - Nice to have

- Rolling Pin
- Potato Masher
- Cake Server
- Ice Cream Scoop
- Citrus Press
- Slotted Spoon
- Salt & Pepper Mills 

Basics

- Tea Kettle  

You don't need an additional tea kettle if you are already providing an electric tea kettle.
- Filtered Water Pitcher
- Ice Cube Trays
- Dish Towels
- Washcloths
- Potholders
- Trash Can 
- Recycling Bin

Basics - Nice to have

- Insulated Cups w/ Lids
- Water Bottles
- Reusable Storage Containers
- Flour/Sugar Storage Containers
- Dish Drying Rack
- Flatware Organizing Tray
- Spoon Rest
- Cloth Napkins

Cleaning Supplies

- Hand Soap
- Dish Soap
- Dishwasher Detergent
- Scrubber Sponges
- Surface / All Purpose Cleaner
- Paper Towels
- Garbage Bags 

KITCHEN

Utensils/Tools

- Olive Oil 
- Balsamic Vinegar
- Coffee 
When choosing your coffee, consider the types of guests who will be staying at your place. For mid to luxe stays, beans from a local coffee roaster can be a nice touch.
- Coffee Filters
- Tea
Make sure to include at least one non-caffeinated option.
- Flour
- Sugar
- Baking Soda
- Salt
- Pepper
- Assorted Spices
We recommend:
 - Garlic Powder
 - Thyme
 - Oregano
 - Rosemary
 - Basil
 - Cumin
 - Cayenne Pepper
 - Chili Powder
 - Cinnamon
- Parchment Paper
- Aluminum Foil
- Plastic Wrap
- Sandwich/Storage Bags

Fridge

- Bottled Water
- Non-Dairy Creamer
We recommend non-dairy as it lasts longer. You could also get the small individual cups of creamer that don't need to be refrigerated.
- Baking Soda
In addition to keeping this in your pantry, it's a good idea to keep a box in your fridge to prevent unwanted smalls.
- Ketchup
- Mustard
- Soy Sauce

Fun Food Extras - Nice to have

Depending on the price point of your home and your target guests, you may want to include some of the following items. Just don't forget to factor them into the cost of your nightly stay as these usually need to be replenished for each new guest.

- Bottle of Wine
- Fruit Basket
- Snacks
This can be a fun way to highlight some local treats.
 - Chips
 - Pretzels
 - Cookies
 - Candy
- Muffins or Croissants
- Hot Cocoa
Great for cold weather properties and those aimed at families.

KITCHEN

Some Special Extras - Nice to have

- Pizza Stone
- Extra Coffee Making Options

If your target guests are the type to be into fancy coffee, we recommend adding at least one of these high-end coffee making options:

- Nespresso
- French Press
- Pour Over
- Cocktail Supplies
- Mixology Set
- Martini Glasses
- Highball Glasses

Champagne Glasses

Is your place perfect for romantic getaways or bachelorette parties? Then champagne glasses are a must.

Recipe Book

It can be a fun idea to add a recipe book that highlights local cuisine or a nearby restaurant.

For the kids!

- Highchair
- Kid Dishes
- Kid Utensils

Easy kitchen setup!

Save precious time setting up by ordering our HostGPO [KitchenBOX](#). You get everything you need in just one click.

Pro tip!

The best wake-up call is a good cup of coffee or tea.

Providing a coffee/tea station can help guests feel at home. This can include your coffee maker, a selection of coffee and teas, as well as creamer and sugar options.

We love organizing items into small bowls and putting them on a tray.

BEDROOMS

Furniture

Bedframe

Choose a frame with a headboard or add a headboard to your frame. We recommend getting a king or queen for the main bedroom.

Mattress

To make the most of your budget, use the highest quality mattress in the main room and slightly lower quality for the other rooms.

Nightstand(s)

We would put one on either side of the bed, assuming you have enough space in the room.

Furniture - Nice to have

Sitting Chair or Bench

Depending on the layout of your room, having a chair in the corner or bench at the foot of the bed adds a great place for luggage or clothes.

Dresser

This is a great option to add if you have the space, especially if guests will be staying more than a couple days. We recommend at least 2 drawers per person staying in the room.

Armoire

This is an easy solution to provide guests a way to hang clothing if you don't have a closet.

Linens

Airbnb specifies "Extra Pillows & Blankets" and VRBO specifies "Linens Provided".

Fitted Sheets (3/bed)

Flat Sheets (3/bed)

Pillow Cases (6/bed, 3/twin bed)

Duvet Insert (1/bed)

Duvet Cover (2/bed)

Standard Pillows (4/bed, 2/twin bed)

Standard Pillow Protectors (4/bed, 2/twin bed)

Mattress Encasement (1/bed)

Decor

Lamps

It's best practice to have a lamp or light fixture on both sides of the bed.

Curtains/Blinds

If you're going to go for room darkening curtains or shades, think about doing it in the bedrooms.

Decor - Nice to have

Decorative Pillows

To add a bit of character, we recommend 2 Euro pillows and shams to go behind the standard pillows along with 2 small throw pillows or a bolster to go in front.

Rug

The easiest rug option is having one large rug that goes under the bed and extends 18" - 14" out from either side and the foot of the bed. A queen bed requires an 8' x 10' rug or larger. A king bed requires an 9' x 12' rug or larger.

Floor Length Mirror

Will your guests be getting ready to go out or for a special event? If so, this is a must.

Artwork

We recommend one large piece above the bed, another large piece or mirror above the dresser (as long as the dresser is not too tall) and several smaller pieces throughout the room.

Floor Lamp

This is a great way to brighten a dark corner

Faux Plants

BEDROOMS

Basics

- Hangers 
- Small Trash Can
- Alarm Clock
- Fan
- Luggage Rack
- Laundry Hamper

Electronics/Accessories

- TV
 - Although hotly debated, having a TV in the main bedroom usually doesn't add to a negative experience, but not having one can.
- Remote Control
- Bluetooth Speaker/Stereo/
Sound System  

Airbnb specifies "Sound System" and VRBO specifies "Stereo" but we recommend getting Bluetooth speakers, so guests can play their own music from their phones.

Electronics/Accessories -

Nice to have

- TV Wall Mount
- Smart TV Plugin

Ex: Apple TV, Roku, Firestick, Chrome TV. Although make sure to also have a regular TV/cable option if your target audience is an older demographic.

For the kids!

- Twin Beds
 - This is the easiest solution for a room that can accommodate either two children or two adults.
- Bunk Beds
 - This is a great option for small spaces or to add even more guest capacity to your home.
- Pack 'n' Play
- Toys 
- Kids Books 

Bed making made easy!

Don't worry about what and how many linens to buy. Our [BedBOX](#) takes out all the guesswork.

Simply add how many of each size bed you have and we add everything you need for each bed to your cart.

BATHROOMS

Linens

Airbnb specifies "Bathroom Essentials" and VRBO specifies "Linens Provided".

- Bath Towels (4/guest)
- Hand Towels (4/guest)
- Washcloths (8/guest)
- Bath Mats (3/full bathroom)

Linens - Nice to have

- Bath Robes (2/guest)

Amenities

Decide whether you want to stock refillable containers or single-use amenities and make sure to keep plenty of extras on hand.

- Hand Soap  VRBO specifies "Basic Soaps".
- Lotion
- Shampoo  
- Conditioner 
- Body Soap 
- Tissues
- Toilet Paper 

Amenities - Nice to have

- Cotton Swabs
- Cotton Balls/Rounds
- Tampons

Cleaning

- Plunger
- Toilet Brush
- Toilet Cleaner
- Bathroom Cleaner
- Glass Cleaner

Basics

- Hair Dryer  
- Wastebasket

Special Extras - Nice to have

- Bidet 

This is especially great if you're expecting European and/or Asian guests who are used to this option.

For the kids!

- Baby bathtub 

The best way to bath!

Don't worry about how many towels you need. Our [BathBOX](#) makes setting up your bathroom a breeze.

Simply add how many bathrooms you have and the number of guests and we add everything you need to your cart.

LAUNDRY & STORAGE

Appliances

- Washing Machine
- Dryer
- Vacuum

Basics - Need to have

- Iron
- Ironing Board
- Step Stool or Ladder
 - Go with the smallest option that allows you to touch up paint on your walls and change your light bulbs.
- Light Bulbs
- Batteries (Various Sizes)
 - It's a good idea to keep a variety of different battery sizes, but make sure to always have plenty of 9-volts for smoke detectors and AAs or AAAs for remote controls.
- Extension Cords
- Surge Protector Power Strip
- Tool Kit
 - We recommend purchasing an all-in-one basic toolkit. Make sure it includes:
 - Hammer
 - Screwdriver with different attachments
 - Hex Keys
 - Wrench
 - Measuring Tape
 - Utility Knife/Box Cutter
- Drill

Basics - Nice to have

- Air mattress
- Air purifier
- Dehumidifier/Humidifier

Basics - Nice to have (cont'd)

- Phone/Computer Charging cords
- Steamer
 - It's much easier to get the wrinkles out of dresses with a steamer than an iron. This is a great amenity to offer if you're hosting bachelorette and wedding parties.
- White Noise Machine
 - If you offer a crib or a pack 'n play, you should offer a white noise machine. It's also a nice touch if your property is located in an urban or noisy area.
- Laundry Baskets / Bins
 - Very useful if you are hosting families or guests that are doing outdoor activities or staying long enough to re-wear clothing.

Cleaning Supplies

- Laundry Detergent
- Bleach
- Multi-Purpose Cleaner
- Glass Cleaner
- Upholstery/Carpet Cleaner
- Magic Erasers
- Mop
- Bucket
- Cleaning Rags
- Broom
- Dustpan
- Glass Cleaner
- Swiffer/Duster
- Dryer Balls

These are a reusable, eco-friendly alternative to dryer sheets. They allow linens to dry more quickly and towels will feel slightly softer and fluffier.

SAFE & SMART

Basics

- WiFi Hub/Router
- Carbon Monoxide & Smoke Detector(s)
- Smart Deadbolts/Locks Lockbox
- Fire Extinguisher
- First Aid Kit
- Flashlight
- Candles
- Lighter
- Batteries (Various sizes)
- Water Jug

For the kids!

- Child Safety Gate(s)
- Clear Rubber Corner Cushions
- Outlet Covers

Basics - Nice to have

- WiFi Enabled Thermostat
- Home Security & Outdoor Monitoring System
- Motion Sensor Lighting
- Noise Detection Device
- Cigarette Smoke Detection Device
- Safe
- Fire Escape Ladder

OUTDOORS

This section is arranged by types of outdoor settings you may have. Follow the checklist according to your unique setup.

All Outdoor Settings

Outdoor Water Glasses

No matter what type of outdoor setup you have, give your guests the option to hydrate while they're outside without the worry of breaking real glass.

Patio Umbrella

This is a must if your outdoor area gets lots of sun. You can opt for a free-standing option for a lounge or pool area, or an in-table option for a dining area.

Citronella Candles or Torches

Bug Spray

Sunscreen

These last three items are a great way to ensure your guests have a good trip. If all they remember is being eaten by bugs or getting a horrible sun burn, it will cloud their entire experience no matter how nice your place is.

All Outdoor Settings - Nice to have

Outdoor Rug

Not necessary by any means, this can add that extra something that makes your outdoor space feel more special and designed.

Heat Lamp

This a great way to extend the amount of time guests can enjoy the outdoor areas you've created and make them more comfortable.

Bistro Lights

If your guests don't post it on Insta were they really there? Bistro lights are a great way to set the vibe.

Bikes

Bikes can move to an "essential" item if you're located near good bike trails/paths or local shops and restaurants within easy biking distance.

Bike Locks

Lounge Area

Furniture dependent on the size/layout of your space.

Outdoor Sofa/Sectional

Outdoor Chair(s)

Outdoor Coffee Table

Outdoor Throw Pillows

Lounge Area - Nice to have

Outdoor Blankets

Side Tables

Dining Area

Outdoor Dining Table

Outdoor Dining Chairs

Melamine Plates

We prefer melamine for outdoor tabletop items, but any non-breakable material works.

Melamine Bowls

Outdoor Wine Glasses

Outdoor Pitcher

Dining Area - Nice to have

Outdoor Placemats / Tablecloth

Melamine Serving Platter

Melamine Serving Bowl

OUTDOORS

This section is arranged by types of outdoor settings you may have. Follow the checklist according to your unique setup.

Firepit

Fire Pit

If you don't already have one, we recommend [Solo Stove](#) for their smokeless options that abide by fire safety regulations. (Plus HostGPO members get a discount!)

Chairs

We love Adirondack chairs around a fire, but any seating so your guests don't have to sit on the ground works.

S'mores Supplies

You know the drill—graham crackers, marshmallows, chocolate.

Long Skewers

Grilling

Grill

Propane/Charcoal

Long Lighter

Grilling Tool Set

Grill Brush

Grill Cover

Skewers

Pool

Pool Towels

Pool Toys & Floats

Safety Equipment

These are general recommendations. Be sure to check your local guidelines for what is required in your area:

Rescue Equipment

No Diving/Safety Signs

Pool Alarm

Isolation Fence

Pool - Nice to have

Loungers or Chairs

Side Table

Hot Tub

Pool Towels

Outdoor Wine Glasses

Yard Games/Activities

You don't need to get all of these games, but providing a couple is a great entertainment option for families and groups of friends.

Corn Hole

Bocce Ball

Croquet

Giant Jenga

Airbnb specifies "Life Sized Games".

Giant Connect 4

Giant Yard Dice

Volleyball Net

Badminton

Outdoor Movie Screen

Near Lakes/Rivers/Ocean

Towels are a must, and the rest of the options below depends on what makes sense for the type of water.

Pool Towels

Kayaks

Paddle Boards

Surf Boards

EXTRA ENTERTAINMENT

The following items are by no means necessary—they are fun additions that can enhance your listing and attract guests looking for niche offerings.

<input type="checkbox"/> Game Table	<input type="checkbox"/> Arcade Games 
<input type="checkbox"/> Ping Pong  	<input type="checkbox"/> Batting Cage 
<input type="checkbox"/> Foosball Table 	<input type="checkbox"/> Bowling Alley 
<input type="checkbox"/> Pool Table  	<input type="checkbox"/> Climbing Wall 
<input type="checkbox"/> Movie Theater 	<input type="checkbox"/> Game Console/Video Games 
<input type="checkbox"/> Piano 	<input type="checkbox"/> Laser Tag 
<input type="checkbox"/> Mini Golf 	<input type="checkbox"/> Music Library 

PETS

If you're going to allow pets, it's also important to specify pet rules such as where they're allowed to wander, where they can urinate, where poop can be thrown away, etc.

Dogs

- Dog bowls
- Dog bed
- Poop Bags

Both

- Stain & Odor Eliminating Spray
- Toys
- Treats

Cats

- Litter Box
- Litter
- Litter Scoop

SAVE LIKE A PRO

These checklists and tips are all things we wish we had known before setting up our first properties.

At HostGPO, our goal is to not just help you set up your home but to also build a successful vacation rental business.

We give our members access to up to **75% off furniture, linens, and supplies**, software tools that help you with **pricing, marketing, and management**, and our community and support network made up of hosts just like you.

Want to join HostGPO?

[Click here to apply to become a HostGPO member.](#)

Some of our partners include:



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