PCS First-Night Box Checklist

Pack it last, load it last, open it first. Everything you need for night one in the new place.

Bedding

- [ ] Sheets and pillowcases for each bed
- [ ] A pillow for each person
- [ ] Blanket or sleeping bag for each person
- [ ] Air mattress and pump (charged)
- [ ] Bath towels and washcloths

Tools

- [ ] Box cutter or utility knife
- [ ] Multi-bit screwdriver
- [ ] Flashlight and spare batteries
- [ ] Scissors and duct tape
- [ ] Hex keys for furniture assembly

Chargers & Tech

- [ ] Phone chargers and cables
- [ ] Power strip or extension cord
- [ ] Portable battery pack
- [ ] Laptop or tablet and charger
- [ ] Nightlight for the hallway

Documents

- [ ] IDs, orders and move paperwork
- [ ] Housing or lease papers and keys
- [ ] Household goods inventory
- [ ] Medical and school records
- [ ] Insurance and vehicle papers

Kids & Pets

- [ ] Favorite toy or comfort item
- [ ] Pajamas and a change of clothes
- [ ] Diapers, wipes and kid snacks
- [ ] Pet food, bowls, leash and litter
- [ ] Pet bed or crate

Cleaning Basics

- [ ] Toilet paper and paper towels
- [ ] Trash bags
- [ ] All-purpose cleaner and sponges
- [ ] Hand soap and dish soap
- [ ] Shower curtain and rings

First Meals

- [ ] Paper plates, cups and utensils
- [ ] Bottled water
- [ ] Easy breakfast: cereal, bars, fruit
- [ ] Coffee or tea and a way to make it
- [ ] Can opener, small pot and a pan

Toiletries

- [ ] Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- [ ] Shampoo, soap and deodorant
- [ ] Daily medications
- [ ] Basic first-aid kit
- [ ] Glasses, contacts and case

Goes in Your Car, Not the Moving Truck

- [ ] Wallet, IDs and the document folder
- [ ] Prescriptions and daily medications
- [ ] Cash, cards and spare keys
- [ ] Jewelry and other valuables
- [ ] Laptops and backup drives
- [ ] Family photos and keepsakes
- [ ] Pets, with food, water and leash
- [ ] Snacks, water and car chargers
- [ ] Clothes for the first few days
- [ ] This first-night box

If losing it would ruin your week, keep it with you.