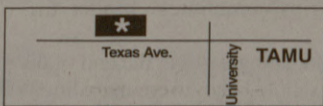


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.54	H	SI2	950 ⁰⁰	EGL Cert.					
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.32	H	SI1	615 ⁰⁰	EGL Cert.					
1.36	D	SI2	6500 ⁰⁰	EGL Cert.					
.51	E	VS1	1525 ⁰⁰	EGL Cert.					
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.73	E	VS2	2920 ⁰⁰	EGL Cert.					
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.70	H	VS2	2100 ⁰⁰	EGL Cert.					
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.60	H	VS1	1400 ⁰⁰	EGL Cert.					
.602	G	VS1	1375 ⁰⁰	EGL Cert.					
.591	G	VS1	1500 ⁰⁰	EGL Cert.					
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.56	E	VVS1	1600 ⁰⁰	GIA Cert.					
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.54	D	SI2	1250 ⁰⁰	EGL Cert.					
.524	G	VS1	1170 ⁰⁰	EGL Cert.					
.51	D	VS2	1350 ⁰⁰	GIA Cert.					
.51	D	SI1	1275 ⁰⁰	EGL Cert.					
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1.72	I	I1	3950 ⁰⁰	EGL Cert.					
1.63	G	SI1	6800 ⁰⁰	EGL Cert.					
1.31	H	SI3	3700 ⁰⁰	EGL Cert.					
1.18	H	SI3	3300 ⁰⁰	EGL Cert.					
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.76	I	SI2	1475 ⁰⁰	EGL Cert.					
.75	H	SI1	1750 ⁰⁰	EGL Cert.					
.74	J	SI2	950 ⁰⁰	EGL Cert.					
.57	J	SI3	750 ⁰⁰	EGL Cert.					
1.52	I	VVS1	6490 ⁰⁰	EGL Cert.					
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FRESHMEN Survival Guide

Moving into the mysterious land of college can be overwhelming for incoming students, whether they are freshmen or transfers from other schools. Living away from home for the first time is an experience that brings with it hidden responsibilities that can be overwhelming to those who are unprepared for them. Simple tips and planning ahead can be useful and sometimes vital for a successful first year of college.

Mallika Surrender is a sales associate for Linens-N-Things, a leading residence hall and college supply retailer. Surrender has several years of experience working with students. She provided the following survival and living tips for new students who are leaving home to begin the first chapter of their college lives.

• Be sure to read and understand the living policies and guidelines of the school you are attending ahead of time. Inquire if any policies are specific to the hall that you will be staying in. This will save you time and money when you are setting up your room, because you will be aware of what your restrictions are ahead of time.

• While shopping for hall furnishings, it is important to keep the size and setup of your dorm in mind. Also keep in mind that you won't be living there alone. Items such as large home entertainment centers, neon light fixtures, sofas larger than a single or love seat and TV's larger than 19 inches are not only impractical, but may not even be allowed in your particular residence hall.

• Most halls do not come equipped with much furniture. Bringing furniture such as bean bags, lawn chairs and papasan chairs allows you to add your own style to the room, provide a place for visitors to sit and provide an alternative studying place other than your desk or bed. They are also easy to store and transport.

• Many halls do not allow candles, incense sticks or plug-in air fresheners. A good and economical alternative to these are air freshening sprays and potpourri mixtures.

• Getting a microfridge and microwave is always a good idea, even for those residents who intend to eat all their meals out of their rooms. These gadgets increase your meal options when you cannot leave your room. Another advantage of eating in is that it can prove to be economical in the long run.

• Have a list of important and emergency phone numbers in an easy access location at all times.

• For those students who decide to stick it out off campus their first year, remember that planning ahead is key. Living in an apartment, duplex or house is an entire lifestyle change. Along with regular living responsibilities come the duties of housekeeping, maintenance and paying bills on time.

• Discuss all of the living arrangement details with your roommate ahead of time, down to who will pay for the first roll of toilet paper. This will prevent you from going over budget or having extra items.

• No matter where you decide to live, it is important to have spares. An extra set of sheets or towels can be important during a stressful week when doing laundry just isn't important.

• Disinfectant wipes, dusters, anti-allergen sprays and other anti-allergen products are small yet essential products that can help ensure you have a bacteria and allergen-free living zone.

• Proper storage tools such as Yaffa blocks and under-the-bed containers can help you organize your belongings effectively. Proper food storage also helps keep your midnight snacks fresh longer.

Aside from settling into your new home, adjusting to college life in general can be a challenge. Here are some tips that Aggies with experience can't live without.

• Most professors require students to provide their own scantrons. Stocking up on them ahead of time rather than buying them individually can prevent a crisis.

• Hold on to quarters; they are vital for the dozens of laundry loads students have to wash every semester.

• Walking around campus in the Texas heat can be physically draining to those who aren't properly hydrated. Keep a water bottle handy to prevent dehydration.

• For students who want to expand their social circle, joining University organizations can be a fun and useful way to make friends while helping the community at the same time. For more information about the many campus organizations, visit studentactivities.tamu.edu.

• The University has many help centers for students who are having difficulty coping with certain classes. Taking advantage of these services is a helpful way to make it through first year classes. More information about these services can be found at www.tamu.edu/00/academic/aaaahk.html.

No matter where you live or who you live with, the transition to independent life can be made easier by following these simple, effective tips.



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STORY BY NISHAT FATIMA • THE BATTALION



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