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DORM ON A DIME

Reported and Web Produced by: [John Matarese](#)

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Sending your kids off to college is already expensive enough, but they'll likely want their new dorm rooms to reflect their new independence. So how do you deck out a dorm without spending too much?

We have money saving ideas to dress up a dorm on a dime, from the comparison shopping site Shopzilla.com.

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What do you think about your desk?

Evan Martin is just getting used to the idea of packing his entire life into his college dorm room.

You can get some shoes under the bed.

Like new college students across the country, he wants his new room to feel like a home. But how do you go from this...To this, without breaking the bank?

Helen Malani of Shopzilla.Com says the some of best dorm deals are on-line.

"A lot of these things are made of plastic, bedding is very washable."

And the easiest way to transform a dorm is to buy special packages, where everything has already been put together.

It's a money saver too. Check out the price comparison at specialty online store, Dormbuys.Com:

Separately, the items in their bedroom package will cost you almost 130 dollars. In a **package**, almost 20 percent less.

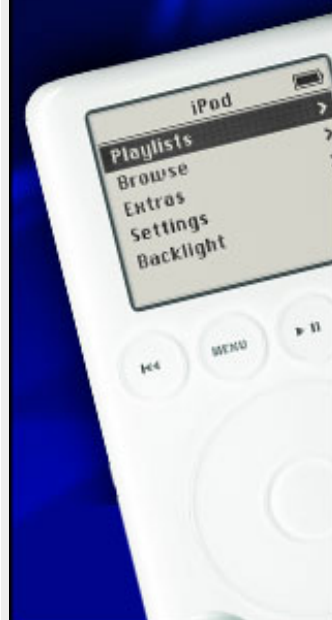


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Traditional retailers like target & jcpenny are also competing for your money with deals of their own on dorm decor and campus essentials. But before you buy, it pays to get all the facts.

"Mom's gotta order those sheets"

"Contact the housing office, see what kind of beds are offered, a lot of universities offer what's called extra long twins, which standard sheets aren't going to fit."

And contacting future roommates well in advance of move-in day can save you money too.

"Find out what everyone's bringing, there's no point in everyone bringing a tv, everyone bringing a microwave, everyone bringing a toaster.

Often times, there are long lists of things that aren't allowed in dorm rooms, like hot plates, microwaves, candles, or heavy wall art.

So check with the student housing office before you buy.

By the way, Shopzilla is owned by our parent company, EW Scripps. Click the link above to learn more about their comparison shopping service.

As always, "Don't waste your money." I'm John Matarese.

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