

AUGUST 2010

Good Housekeeping

easy

Summer SUPPERS

Fast, Fresh, Fabulous

GENIUS ORGANIZING

Smart Ideas for the Whole Family

50

Guilt-Free SNACKS

(Even chocolate!)

STAND UP For Yourself!

10 Simple Steps

Shinier, Fuller Hair

The pros' surprising shampoo secret

Bottled Water

What's Best, What's Bad

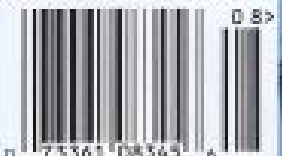
Maggie Gyllenhaal

Emma Thompson

Why we need Best Friends

Pals Maggie & Emma talk hot husbands, dirty dishes, growing girls—and their surprising connection

goodhousekeeping.com



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\$3.49

Dorm Bedding

Take note: College dorm beds are nearly always extra-long-twin size. (Why? The bonus five inches better accommodates tall students.) **We assessed 17 sheet sets** so you can send your student off with ones that fit well (even over a mattress topper) and won't shrink, pill, fade, rip, or lose their softness. (For the results of our test of comforters, go to goodhousekeeping.com/dormbedding.)



1 QUALITY

For sheets that are soft and generously sized and will wash well, look to **Wamsutta Pinpoint 360** (\$20 each for flat and fitted; \$28 for two pillowcases). They won't tear easily or shrink much through many launderings (once your freshman learns to work the machines). The fabric did pill a bit on our abrasion test. In four colors.



2 STYLE

PBteen's Twin XL Sheet Set in cotton percale (\$49 to \$69 per set) comes in 90-plus solids and prints—choosy kids are sure to find a look they like. The material won't easily pill, fade, or shrink. Note: Some dye wore off the darker sheets on our abrasion test. Bonus: The fabric is Oeko-Tex 100 certified to be free of harmful substances.



3 VALUE

For a bargain second set, **Bedding Basics for Bed Bath & Beyond** (\$20 per set) is a good fit with a thin mattress topper. The fabric is strong and unlikely to rip if caught on a metal bunk bed frame. You'll see some pilling, fading, and shrinkage after washing, but the sheets will withstand a few years in the dorms. In four colors.



PORTABLE EXTERNAL HARD DRIVES

Computer-file backup is all the more vital when a final grade depends on just a few big papers. **All 15 portable external hard drives (most 500GB) we tested** performed well—but not all were easy to use. These are virtually hassle-free.

Seagate's FreeAgent GoFlex (\$130; four colors) is superslim and lightweight. Once installed, the seamless software makes backup a breeze. Even easier, **Clickfree C2** (\$160) is nearly fool-proof—plug it in, and the entire setup process practically runs for you. **Cirago's Portable Storage CST5500** is a great deal at \$100, though we found its setup to be trickier than the others'.

Thermal Coffee Mugs

Whether your kid is pulling or recovering from all-nighters, a thermal mug is practically a higher-education requirement. But not all mugs make the grade: **Of the 53 we tested, 29** (typically the plastic ones) didn't keep liquid hot enough—and 21 leaked!

You get what you pay for: We found that a high-quality mug costs at least \$20. Our test-toppers, the 16-ounce **Thermos Sipp Insulated Tumbler** (\$25; 1) and the 15-ounce **Chantal Livestrong** (\$22; 2), are both made of stainless steel, and have leakproof lids that open with the push of a button to allow sipping from any spot around the edge. The Chantal is a bit easier to open, while the Thermos is great for tea lovers, with a clip that keeps a tea bag from falling in. If ease of use is a top priority, you'll like the 14-ounce **Oxo Good Grips LiquiSeal Travel Mug** (\$20; in three colors; 3). It won't leak, opens easily, and is comfortable to drink from. However, it didn't maintain heat as well as others. Prefer one with a handle? Try the durable, leakproof 16-ounce **Contigo Extreme Mug** (\$20; in four colors; 4).



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