

What Furniture to bring to South Korea as a USFK family

Some Tips for Bringing the Right Amount of Household Goods to Korea.

Command Sponsored families are allowed to **bring 50% of their household goods to Korea**. Email Housing to ask for a list of available Loaner Furniture.

Most Korean apartments have no outdoor storage and little closet space. There are almost **no walk-in closets**.

When deciding what to bring **take away the space you enjoy from a garage, backyard shed, attic and extra rooms** that are not used for sleeping. Now imagine fitting everything you own into your kitchen, living room and 2-3 bedrooms. This will give you a realistic idea of the space you will have in Korea.

Bring the bare essentials. It's a different way of living but it's only for two-three years and you may gain new insights on minimalism. Life is always an adventure.

There is beautiful Korean furniture to buy. Consider leaving things at home and buy new furniture to ship back to the states.

		Bring It	It's Up to you	Store It
Heirloom Piece and Collectibles	Do you love this piece of furniture? Is this item super collectible? Has it been passed down between generations? You might want to store it. Anytime you move an item you risk damaging it and twice overseas is risky for expensive/cherished items. Take lots of photos and get it appraised in case of damage from storage.			X
Dining Room Set	This depends on the size of your table. Of the apartments I've seen, most have a combination Kitchen, Dining and Living room area. Most kitchens have a large island that doubles as a dining room table. If your table is too long (longer than 6'), save the weight and leave it at home.		X	
Counter height chairs/ Bar Stools	Most offpost kitchens have a counter height island that doubles as a table and onpost apartments have a counter height counter space. If you own bar stools, bring them.	X		
Living Room Couch and Easy Chair	Do you have pets that chew? Do you have kids that, no matter what you say, always destroy your couch? Might want to consider bringing your own because the Loaner Closet will charge for damages. And Loaner Couches and Chairs are a bit hard, not soft. Decide if you can afford the weight.		X	
TV Stand and End Tables	The surface of the Loaner Furniture end tables fleck easily, even with the use of coasters. As long as you don't have pets that chew, keep tablecloths on all surfaces and you'll have no problems.			X
Wall Hangings & Picture Frames	Homes in Korea often have cement walls and wallpaper. Residents are discouraged from drilling into the wall. Some homes may have wires for hanging photos from the ceiling but using command strips or other devices to hang frames aren't good long term solutions.			X
Area Rugs	This is up to you. Korean homes have radiant heat systems in the floor to keep you warm in the winter. If you have pets or kids who don't like hardwood floors consider bringing your rugs.		X	
Lamps	There are kids lamps and regular lamps available through Loaner Furniture. They all use the American 120volt regardless of whether you live on or off-post so might as well as bring your own.	X		
Mattresses and frames	Korean beds are hard as rocks. I've actually had more luck sleeping on the floor so bring your own mattresses. King size mattresses won't fit well in on-post housing but should be fine in the more spacious off-post apartments. Loaner furniture does NOT have King Size bed frames. Email housing for the loaner furniture list.		X	
Dressers	The Loaner dressers are Ok, the drawers tend to get stuck but they are good enough for two years. Save some weight and leave the dressers at home. Each room can have a 6 drawer dresser and the master can have a second standing 6 drawer dresser. Kids rooms get an additional 2 drawer dresser under the bed.			X
Electronics	TV's, Game consoles, fans, crock pots etc. You don't want to find old, outdated electronics in your storage when you get home and electronics notoriously don't do well in storage.	X		
Office Furniture	Loaner Furniture does not provide adult sized desks or desk chairs so bring them. Loaner furniture has kid desks and chairs available.	X		
Books	With the weight limitations it's best to leave books at home. Bring school books, professional material, references and a small box of your favorites.			X
Bookshelves	There are very few closets in Korea and Loaner Furniture allows only one bookshelf per family. Do the math and decide if you need more shelving for electronics, board games, books, knickknacks, toys etc. Getting shelving installed in the walls is not an option in most places.		X	

Kitchen Ware	Cupboard space in the kitchen can be lacking. Bring the bare essentials to survive 2 years. Take into account that you may not have a dishwasher and bring less dishes and silverware. Eating out at restaurants that serve Korean food is very cheap and if you didn't cook a lot before you probably won't cook a lot here. Leave Cookie Sheets at home, Korean ovens are half the size of American ovens.		X	
Kitchen Appliances	Bring everything with you but leave or sell the heavy items like a full sized oven or refrigerator. Loaner Furniture can provide a gas range, ovens (very small so leave cookie sheets home) and refrigerators.	X		
Clothing	Bring everything except things you obviously won't wear like a wedding dress. Korea has all the seasons so everything is essential and you don't want to see that old T-shirt coming out of storage in two years.	X		
Linens	Bring it all, like clothing you don't want to see this stuff in two years. Best to pack Linens in Unaccompanied Baggage to have it with you when you first move in.	X		
Toys	Bring everything except collectibles and heirlooms. Your kids will outgrow any toys you pull from storage in two years.	X		
Outdoor Lawn Equipment and Toys	Most homes do not have a lawn nor a private outdoor space. Outdoor areas are open to the community so no place for outdoor equipment or toys.			X
Grill	On-post housing has a space for personal grills but this means getting in the elevator and walking to the designated area to do your grilling. Off-post housing is similar but those living in villas will have an easier time getting to the grill. Only true grill masters should bring one. Be sure it is extra clean or the movers may not take it. Grills are available for sale at the PX during the summer.		X	
Bicycles	Biking is a serious hobby in Korea and there are breath taking mountain vistas, roadside coffee shops and hotels just for bicyclists and bicycle shops in every town. If you love to bike then bring it with you. There is usually balcony or stairwell space for bicycles.	X		
Camping and Fishing Equipment	Korea is the perfect destination for camping enthusiasts. If you regularly camp, hike or fish then bring it with you but know that you will have a corner of your house dedicated to holding camping gear. Many apartments offer a small storage unit in the basement. If you plan on camping only once or twice, rent MWR camping equipment.	X		
Personal Gym/ Treadmill	Space is at a premium in Korean homes. Consider using the on-post gym instead.			X
Washer Machine and Dryer	Most movers won't pack them and it is highly encouraged to NOT bring a dryer and washer. Dryer's in Korea are hooked up to gas and special plugs. I've heard of people stacking their washer and dryer in the corner of their house to collect dust because the cords and plugs don't match Korean homes.			X