

UNIVERSITY HOUSING FIRE SAFETY REGULATIONS

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FIRE SAFETY

For many of you this will be your first time living in a residential community. For some of you this might be your first time living away from home and somewhat on your own. Because of these new experiences and the complexities that come with community-style living, there are certain restrictions put in place to keep you safe.

This document will provide detailed information on what to expect before and after arriving to campus. Please be aware of permitted, as well as prohibited items, within residential communities. Prohibited items and/or violations could result in disciplinary action and/or fines.

Questions not addressed within this document may be sent to richardsonm@smu.edu.

Pony Up!

Max W. Richardson
Fire and Emergency Management Coordinator
Office of Risk Management

COVID-19 UPDATE

Room Inspections

Following Move-In residents will be required to complete an online self-fire inspection, which confirms that only permitted items have been brought to campus. Individuals caught with a prohibited item(s) will automatically be referred to the Dean of Students Office and may be sanctioned by the City of University Park. City sanctions are referred to the municipal judge and can result in a fine up to \$2,000.

For more information regarding non-compliance, please refer to [Policy 11.7 Fire Safety](#).

Fire Evacuation Drills

By law the University is required to conduct four fire evacuation drills each calendar year, with the first drill occurring within the first 10 days of classes. These drills are intended to help occupants better understand what to do during a fire evacuation drill, identify various exits from the building, and direct individuals as to the Evacuation Assembly Point following a fire alarm activation.

Specific details will be emailed to occupants on the first day of classes.

COMMON VIOLATIONS

The following violations were the most common reason a resident failed their room inspection last year:

- Objects hung from ceiling:
 - Lights (including LED “strip lights” and holiday lights)
 - Posters
 - Flags
 - Décor
 - Etc.
- Use of extension cords:
 - Outdoor extension cords
 - Non-surge protected extension cords
- Surge protector or extension cord plugged into a surge protector or extension cord (“daisy chain” fashion)
- Wire running through ceiling/touching metal:

- Lights strung/attached to metal bed frame
- Miniature holiday lights “daisy chained” (multiple strands plugged into each other)
- More than one refrigerator in a single room
- Refrigerator not plugged directly into the wall:
 - Plugged into extension cord
 - Plugged into surge protector
- Wall coverings exceeding max allowed (more than 10%):
 - Posters
 - Flags
 - Décor
 - Peel-and-stick “wallpaper”
 - Pictures
 - Tapestries
- Personal appliances with heating elements not unplugged when not in-use (i.e. clothes iron, curling iron, hair straightener, etc.)
- Exit obstructed/pathway to exit blocked – less than 36 in.:
 - Storage behind door
 - Furniture obstructing entry/exit
 - Curtains/barrier
- Ignitable fluids or items (i.e. lighters, matches, candles, incense, etc.)

APPROVED OR PROHIBITED

All electrical, lighting, personal appliances, small cooking/kitchen appliances, and decorations must be Underwriters Laboratories (UL) approved. Information about UL Certification can be found [here](#).

Electrical

Residence Halls, Apartment Halls, and Fraternity Houses

Approved

- Surge protector, **must be UL-approved:**



- Surge-protected 3 or 6-outlet adapter, **must be UL-approved** (cannot plug surge protector into this):



- Surge-protected extension cord, **must be UL-approved**:



- UL-approved appliances with an outlet or USB port (i.e. lamps, vanity mirror)

Prohibited

- Charging scooters in University Residential Communities
- Non-surge protected extension cords
- Surge protector or extension cord plugged into a surge protector or extension cord (“daisy chain” fashion)
- Non-surge protected extension cords with multi-plug outlets
- Non-surge protected multi-plug adapters
- Fog or smoke machines
- Gasoline powered equipment (i.e. generator)
- Any non UL-approved electrical devices

Lamps/Lighting

Residence Halls, Apartment Halls, and Fraternity Houses

Approved

- Fluorescent or LED bulbs
- Battery-operated LED candles or string lights
- Lamps with an outlet
- UL-approved lights

Prohibited

- Candles/Incense

- Candles for decoration **not** allowed
- **University Greek Housing: Candles and other open flames may not be used for ritual purposes**
- Lava and oil lamps, **no flammable liquids of any kind**
- Halogen or incandescent bulbs
- Miniature style strands of lights
- Any non UL-approved lights

Personal Appliances

Residence Halls, Apartment Halls, and Fraternity Houses

Approved

- UL-approved personal appliances

Approved with Exceptions

- Appliances with a heating element must be unplugged when not in use:
 - Clothes iron
 - Curling iron
 - Hair straightener
 - Curlers
 - Etc.

Prohibited

- Non UL-approved personal appliances

Cooking/Kitchen

Residence Halls and Fraternity Houses

Approved

- UL-approved appliances, with the exception of those prohibited below
- Pod-style coffee makers (may remain plugged in)

Approved with Exceptions

- Appliances must be attended when in use and those with heating elements must be unplugged when not in use:
 - Microwaves (**800 wattage max**)
 - Carafe-style Coffee Makers
 - Electric Kettles

- One refrigerator per bedroom (not more than 3.1 cubic feet) and must be plugged directly into a wall outlet (not into a surge protector or surge protected 3 or 6-outlet wall adapter)

Prohibited

- Unattended cooking when using residence hall community appliances (i.e. microwave)
- Electric skillets, woks
- Grills (charcoal, gas and cooking), George Foreman grills and the like
- Deep fryer appliances such as “Fry Daddy®”
- Slow cookers/pressure cookers/rice cookers
- Toaster ovens/toasters
- Hot plates/induction plates
- Any non UL-approved appliances
- **Any other cooking devices with an open coil**

Apartment Halls

Approved

- UL-approved appliances, with the exceptions of those prohibited below
- Pod-style coffee makers (may remain plugged in)

Approved with Exceptions

- Appliances permitted in the kitchen area must be attended when in use
- Appliances with heating elements must be unplugged when not in use:
 - Coffee pots, electric kettles
 - Microwaves (**800 watt max**) **microwaves are built-in at Daniel House*
 - Toaster ovens
 - Slow cookers, rice cookers, pressure cookers and the like
 - Electric skillets and woks

Prohibited

- Unattended cooking
- Additional refrigerators
- Grills (charcoal, gas and cooking), George Foreman grills and the like
- Deep fryer appliances such as “Fry Daddy®”
- Any non UL-approved appliances
- **Any other cooking devices with an open coil**

Decorating the Room

Residence Halls, Apartment Halls, and Fraternity Houses

Approved

- Free-standing air fresheners or potpourri, such as Glade® Sense and Spray
- Odor-eliminating sprays, such as Febreze®
- Electric wax warmers, such as Sensy®
- Air purifiers or humidifiers
- Plug-in air fresheners, such as Wallflowers®

Approved with Exceptions

- Beads or curtains may be hung over closet doorways (using a tension rod) and curtains may be hung in front of the window (outside of the window casing)
- Artificial or live plants under 18"
 - Plants may not have lights on them
- Decorations may be hung using the approved method for a specific residence hall, so long as they are flush to the wall and do not cover more than 10% of the wall
- Access to windows or exits may not be blocked. Anything placed in front of the window or exit door must be easily movable in event of an emergency (i.e. no large furniture)
 - Exit door must be able to fully open
- Decorations may be hung with white sticky tack or painters tape not 3M™ strips. Additional approved methods vary by residence hall and may be found on the Residence Life and Student Housing website at www.smu.edu/housing

Prohibited

- Decorations may not project away from the walls, be suspended in the air, or be hung from the ceiling (for example: flags, posters, tapestries, bed canopies, etc.)
- Decorations cannot be on or hung from a soffit or overhang in a student room and cannot hinder exit from the room
- Attachments or decorations near, on, or covering a sprinkler head, smoke detector, or water pipes (must have 18" clearance around fire systems equipment)
- Blocking the flow of water from sprinkler heads

- Any wiring running through ceiling or hard wiring
 - Wiring cannot touch metal

PROHIBITED BEHAVIOR

- Smoking and/or evidence of smoking in the building or within 25 feet of any campus building
 - **This includes e-cigarettes or vaping type devices**
- Any form or source of an open flame in the building
- Possessing flammable/combustible liquids or gases
- Possessing chemicals other than cleaning supplies

UNIVERSITY FIRE SAFETY POLICY

Fire safety violations can result in fines. Cost for any damages caused by fire safety violations will also be charged to the resident(s) and may result in conduct action.

Tampering with, damaging, or misusing fire safety equipment including, but not limited to, pull stations, smoke alarms, fire extinguishers, sprinkler systems, or exit signs; unauthorized burning of any material in any University building on or near University property; disregarding a fire alarm or failure to evacuate a building when a fire alarm is sounding; falsely initiating any report, alarm, warning, or threat of fire, explosion, or other emergency; obstruction of fire escapes, corridors, or stairways is a violation of the University's fire safety policy (see <https://www.smu.edu/Policy/11-Risk-Management/11-7-Fire-Safety>).

Students in violation of this policy may face student conduct sanctions, including, but not limited to, Educational Sanctions, fines, or removal from Residence Halls (if applicable). Any of these violations could also be investigated and sanctioned by the Authority Having Jurisdiction. Sanctions referred to a municipal judge may include a fine up to \$2,000.

RLSH FIRE SAFETY REGULATIONS

Residence Halls Fire Safety Poster **(Coming Soon)**

[Apartment Halls Fire Safety Poster](#)

Fraternity Houses Fire Safety Poster **(Coming Soon)**